

NAROTTAMA-VILASA

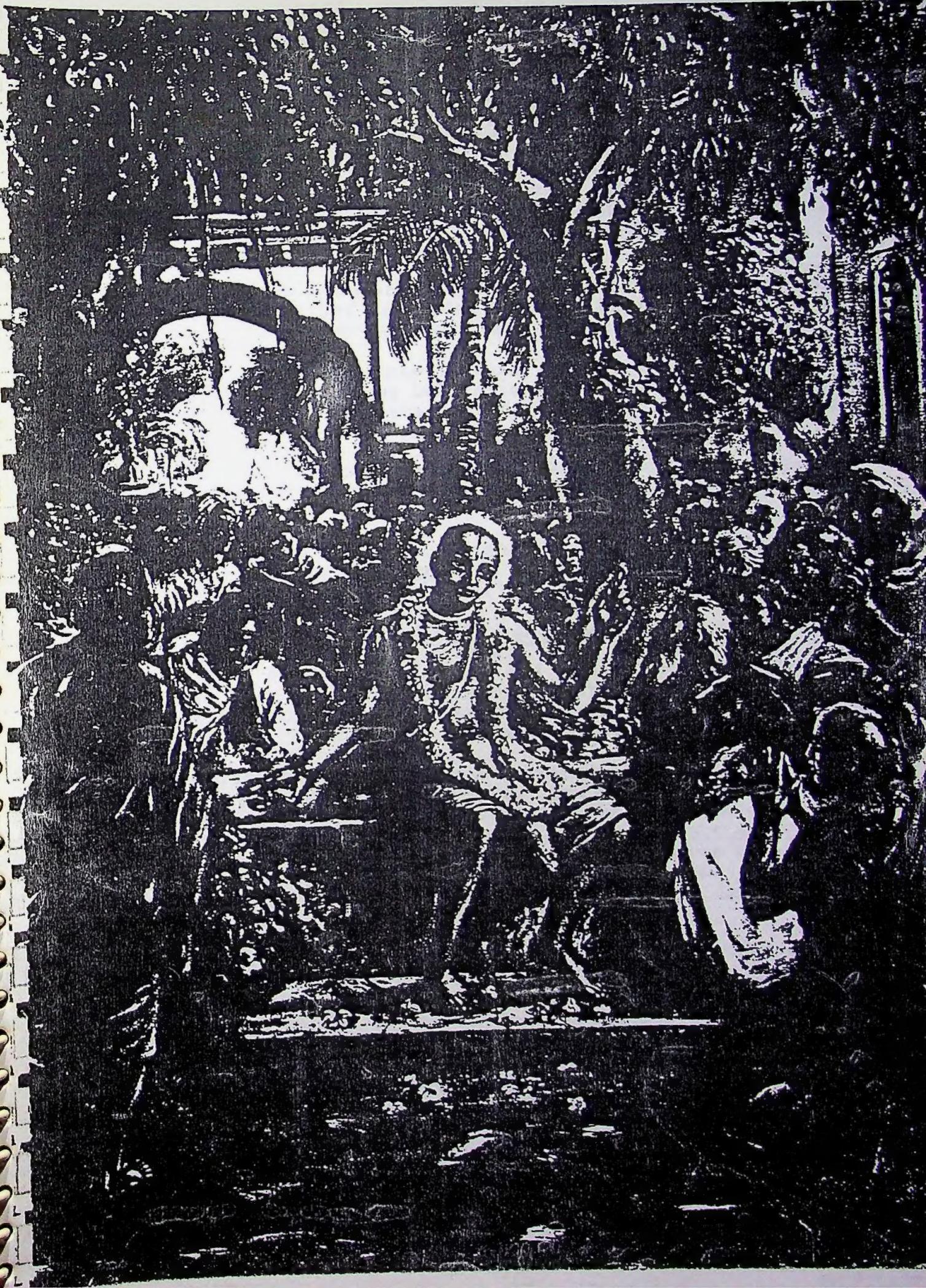
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NAROTTAMA-VILASA

(20)



NAROTTAM-VILAS

By

Narahari Chakravarti

NAROTTAMA VILASA, by Narahari dasa

The First Vilasa

Oh! Supreme Lord Visvambhara, You are the husband of the goddess of fortune, and my eternal friend. You are the foremost distributor of the wealth of love of Godhead, thus you are celebrated as most magnanimous and compassionate. Therefore, Oh Lord, please shower Your kindness upon me.

I worship Sriman Lokanatha Prabhu, who is fully surrendered to the lotus feet of Sri Sri Radha Vinode. He is the life of the devotees, and a confidential associate of Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

I worship Narottama dasa Thakura, who is especially dear to Lord Gauranga. Like a honey bee anxious for the nectar, he hovers at the lotus feet of Lokanatha Gosvami, absorbed in love for Radha Krsna.

I worship the disciples of Srila Narottama Thakura who are rich in good qualities and are able to destroy all misfortune and misery.

For the pleasure of the Vaisnava's and to fulfill my own ardent desires, I am writing this book Narottama Vilasa which briefly describes the glories of Srila Narottama dasa Thakura.

All glories to the son of Saci and Jagannatha Misra, Sri Gaura Govinda, the embodiment of divine love. He is the life of Nityananda and Advaita, the Lord and master of Gadadhara and Srivasa, and the only love of Svarupa, Sanatana, Rupa, and Gopala. Lord Visvambhara is expert at pleasing Murari, and is bound by the love of Haridasa, Vrakresvara, Narahari, Gauridasa, and Gadadhara.

All glories to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and all His devotees. Oh listeners! please bestow your mercy upon me. I am an illiterate fool who knows nothing of right or wrong, yet I have been ordered by saintly persons to narrate this beautiful book Narottama Vilasa. I have offered my obeisances to the Lord in the above verses, now listen patiently and attentively as I briefly describe the glories of Sri Lokanatha Prabhu, a favorite devotee of the Lord and the light of his famous brahmana family.

He was born to Sita and Padmanava Cakravarti in the village of Talagari in the district of Jessore. It is difficult to describe the magnificent attributes of Lokanatha's father and mother. Padmanava was a famous Rarhi brahmana Vaisnava and a favorite of Sri Advaita Prabhu. By the mercy of Advaita Acarya, Padmanava's heart was always filled with happiness. Constantly absorbed in sankirtana, he sang madly and cried incessantly. Those who simply observed his kirtana were also unable to check their tears.

He frequently came to Nadia for darsana of Lord Gauranga. However, after such visits upon returning to his own village he inevitably fell into the depths of despair due to intense feelings of separation from Gauranga.

Padmanava and his wife always sang the glories of Gauracandra. Like her husband, Sita was endowed with all good qualities. She was a devoted Vaisnavi and wife, and felt exceedingly fortunate to have a wonderful son like Lokanatha. Her happiness knew no bounds as she watched his devotion to Sri Gauracandra blossom day by day. Who can describe the loving care she showered upon her exalted son?

Lokanatha was always enthusiastically engaged in the Lord's devotional service. Observing Lokanatha's extraordinary beauty and deep devotion, people were spontaneously drawn to him. He conscientiously served his parents, and was well-versed in all of the scriptures at a very young age.

After his parents died, Lokanatha revealed his heart to his friends, expressing his intense desire to go to Nadia to surrender his heart at the lotus feet of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Thus, after consulting with his friends, Lokanatha cast off all material association and rushed to Nadia.

The mercy of the Lord was abundantly showered upon Lokanatha during his stay in Nadia. However, after sometime Lord Caitanya suddenly requested him to go to Vraja. Lokanatha could understand the mind of the Lord, he knew that Mahaprabhu was thinking of taking sannyasa shortly. Thus Lokanatha's departure was an indescribably pathetic scene. Leaving the Lord's association was unbearable for him. Completely despondent, Lokanatha began his journey. Crying incessantly, the path before him became practically invisible, thus in four or five days he walked a distance which would normally be covered in a single day. After traveling for sometime he received the heart breaking news that Mahaprabhu had taken sannyasa and, after consoling his associates, had gone to Nilacala. Lokanatha cried out aloud, knowing the Lord had given up His beautiful curling hair.

Heavy-hearted and forlorn, Lokanatha continued his journey only because it was the order of the Lord. He arrived in Vrndavana practically lifeless, but the charming atmosphere of Vraja soothed his mind and eased his aching heart. However, after a few days, Lokanatha heard that Mahaprabhu had gone to South India, and his mind became disturbed. Eager to see the Lord again, Lokanatha left for the south at once. In anxious anticipation he traveled quickly. However, after traveling a considerable distance he received news that the Lord had already left the South, returned to Nilacala, and was now proceeding to Vrndavana. Filled with anxiety Lokanatha immediately started for Vraja via Gauda. The devotees in Gauda also confirmed that Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu had

gone to Vrndavana. Following the order of the devotees, Lokanatha traveled first to Jagannatha Puri then on to Vraja. However, upon reaching Vrndavana, he found that Mahaprabhu had departed for Prayaga just a few days before.

The forlorn Lokanatha sank into the depths of despair. Determined to attain the association of the Lord, He decided to follow Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu to Prayaga the following morning. Lokanatha could no longer tolerate the intense misery of separation from his beloved Lord. Remembering the mercy Lord Caitanya had bestowed upon him in Nadia, he rolled on the ground crying pitifully until at last he fell asleep. In his dream he finally received the long awaited darsana of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu; His effulgent body was adorned with yellow sandalwood paste, shining with a brilliance unknown to gold. Perfectly arranged hair, decorated with fresh flowers, surrounded His exquisite face, and His forehead was neatly marked with tilak. Who would not be captivated by His gorgeous lotus eyes, majestic eyebrows, and enticing smile which could easily defeat the beauty of the moon? A sacred thread was draped across His broad chest and His long arms touched His knees. His dhoti was folded in three places and His transcendental youthful body was bedecked with ornaments.

In a sweet voice the Lord addressed Lokanatha: "I shall always be with you, relishing loving pastimes, here in My eternal abode, Navadvipa. Even great personalities like Lord Brahma are unable to understand My transcendental activities." Saying this, He embraced Lokanatha and disappeared.

Lokanatha awoke, the emptiness in the Lord's absence was intolerable and he was overwhelmed with despair. However, by Mahaprabhu's kindness, sleep again overtook him and the Lord, dressed in the garb of a sannyasi, once again appeared before him. "You are thinking of going to Prayaga," the Lord said sweetly, "But what is the use of going there when you can see me here in your dream. Oh Lokanatha, I also desire to be with you in Vrndavana. I sent you to Vrndavana ahead of Me, with the idea of meeting you there later. After you left for Vraja, I took sannyasa from Kesava Bharati. At that time I was very eager to see the riverbank in Vrndavana, but My devotees were so broken-hearted and desolate, due to My accepting the renounced order, that I was obliged to spend a few days in the house of Advaita Prabhu to console them. Afterwards I went to Nilacala, then later to the South. In order to see Me, you also traveled to the South India, but by chance our paths did not cross either in the South or in Vrndavana. I know you are feeling despondent because of this and have decided to leave for Prayaga tomorrow morning, but don't leave Vrndavana, remember that I am always with you. Rest assured that you shall always be informed of My whereabouts. From Prayaga I'll leave for Nilacala, there I will tell My dear devotees Rupa and Sanatana about you and they will meet you in Vrndavana soon. Through them, I shall preach extensively. In their association you will float

on the waves of happiness amidst the ocean of ecstatic love for Krsna, and all your desires will be fulfilled.

"After some time a prince named Narottama will become your disciple. He will be a gifted devotee, full of love and devotion, and empowered to save the fallen conditioned souls from sinful life. His enchanting beautiful kirtana will melt even wood or stone." Thus speaking He embraced Lokanatha, who fell prostrate at the Lord's feet. At that moment, Lokanatha's sleep broke. Awaking and finding himself alone, he sobbed and sobbed, remembering the wonderous qualities of Sri Gaurangacandra. Eventually he pacified himself, but tears continued to flow like rivers from his eyes.

As dawn approached he performed his morning duties and sat down in a quiet place to chant the holy name of the Lord until one local brahmana offered him some fruits to eat. But Lokanatha could not stay in one place for long, restlessness overtook him and he began to wander throughout the forests Vrndavana. Eventually he happened upon a beautiful secluded area where he stayed in hiding for a long time.

Later he found out that while he was in seclusion, Sri Subuddhi Misra had come to Vrndavana, followed by Sri Rupa Gosvami a bit later, but shortly thereafter Rupa Gosvami had gone to meet Sri Gaurasundara in Prayag. Sanatana had also come to Vrndavana but had recently left for Nilacala. Hearing this Lokanatha could not suppress his disappointment. Sighing heavily and crying pitifully, he lamented, "Oh Rupa, Sanatana, when will I be able to live with you?" Suddenly a comforting voice replied: "We shall definitely come to Vrndavana soon."

Eventually Rupa, Sanatana, Gopala Bhatta and others did come to Vrndavana. Further description of their arrival in Vraja has been described in detail elsewhere. I am lost for words to describe that joyous meeting and the immense pleasure they derived from each other's association. Sri Rupa Gosvami greeted Lokanatha with great warmth and affection, dissipating the anguish of long separation from the Lord and His devotees.

Sanatana Gosvami mentions his attachment for Lokanatha in his Vaisnava Tosini: "I worship Srila Kasisvara, Lokanatha, and Sri Krsnadasa, who have taken shelter at the lotus feet of the dearmost Deity in Vrndavana, Srila Govinda Deva." Raghunatha, Bhatta, Gopala Bhatta, Bhugarbha Gosvami, as well as many others, dearly loved Lokanatha. Together they spent many wonderful days in Sri Vrndavana Dham relishing the highest pinnacles of devotional happiness.

EDITED TO HERE

Lokanatha was fully engaged in the service of his worshipful Deities, Sri Sri Radha Vinode. How he obtained these deities I have explained in Bhaktiratnakara (page 23). Once while serving his Deities, Lokanatha suddenly saw the madhurya rupa** of Sri

Gaura amalgamated with that of Sri Radha Vinode. Later, in a dream, the Lord ** revealed everything regarding His own transcendental nature. Such deep spiritual realizations gave rise to intense emotions, thus whenever Lokanatha tried to describe the divine attributes of the Lord, he would lose his composure and simply roll on the ground, cursing himself for not having personally witnessed the Lord's pastimes.

Krsnadasa Kaviraja requested Lokanatha's permission for writing Caitanya Caritamrta, which he received with Lokanatha's wholehearted enthusiasm, yet both he and Gopala Bhatta, forbade Krsnadasa from mentioning their names within the book.

I have heard all of these stories from some aged persons???. Whoever hears them is extremely fortunate. The merciful Lokanatha Gosvami remained in Vrndavana and later showered his blessings upon his dear disciple, Narottama dasa. By the mercy of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Lokanatha obtained the precious gem of love of Godhead:

"I worship the lotus feet of Lokanatha Prabhu whose is opulent with the wealth of Sri Krsna Caitanya's blessings, and whose mind is bedecked with the ornaments of love."

"I take shelter at the lotus feet of Lokanatha Prabhu who eternally resides in Vrndavana. He is always absorbed in loving devotional service, enchanted by the transcendental pastimes of Sri Krsna. "

"I take refuge at the lotus feet of Lokanatha Prabhu who is completely indifferent to the pains and pleasures of this material world. His mercy was fully realized only by the great scholar Narottama dasa."

All glories to Narottama dasa Thakura, the beloved disciple of Lokanatha Gosvami. How the illustrious Narottama took his birth in the house of Krsnananda Datta, the elder brother of Sri Purusottama, I dare not discuss elaborately here. However, for your pleasure, I shall give a brief description.

Rupa and Sanatana lived in Ramakeli, a beautiful village in a pleasant area of Gaudadesha. Although acting as high ranking ministers in the court of the king, they were always absorbed in discussing scriptures with scholars and professors. Their genius and wisdom won them fame throughout the world. In the courts of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Dravida, Tailanga, Utkala, Mithila, Gaura, Gujarat, Vanga, Kasi and Kashmir they were considered the greatest scholars. (I have explained this further in Bhaktiratnakara). Being favorites of the king, the brothers had no shortage of wealth.

Meanwhile, Sri Gauracandra was performing His all-attractive pastimes in Navadvipa. Rupa and Sanatana happened to hear reports

of the Lord's activities and were spontaneously attracted. Immediately they began writing numerous letters to Mahaprabhu, while earnestly waiting for the opportunity to meet Him personally.

The Supreme Lord, who is bound only by the love of His devotees, soon also became anxious to meet Rupa and Sanatana. After accepting sannyasa, the Lord consoled his devotees then went to Nilacala and later to Vrndavana. When Mahaprabhu started for Gaudadesh millions of people ran behind him, thus He arrived at Ramakeli surrounded by hoards of devotees.

On hearing of Lord Caitanya's arrival, Sanatana and Rupa, as well as Kesava Chatri and other friends, were overwhelmed with joy. The royal ministers, Rupa and Sanatana, could not contain their happiness and secretly rushed to meet the associates of Lord Caitanya. By the grace of Nityananda Prabhu they were introduced to Sri Krsna Caitanya. Who can describe the intense emotions of Rupa and Sanatana at that meeting? Sri Gauracandra happily welcomed them with sweet words, as Nityananda Prabhu, Haridasa, Vakresvara, Mukunda and others stood by watching with pleasure.

Mahaprabhu stayed there for a few days constantly surrounded by an ocean of ecstatic devotees who were eager to bathe in the purifying waters of the Lord's transcendental association. Not only the general mass of people were affected by the Lord, even the Yavana king was moved by Mahaprabhu's presence.

One day while Caitanya Mahaprabhu was dancing with his associates during sankirtana, He suddenly looked in the direction of Sri Kheturi village. A peculiar look appeared on His face, tears whelmed up in His eyes, and He cried out the name "Narottama! Narottama!" again and again. The ocean of mercy, Nityananda Raya shouted in joy, and Haridasa, Vakresvara, and others were inexplicably filled with happiness.

Witnessing the unusual behavior of the Lord, the devotees began talking amongst themselves: "Prabhu is repeatedly calling out the name of someone called Narottama."

"It seems that this Narottama is extremely dear to the Lord, perhaps he is about to take birth soon."

"Oh who is that fortunate man who will have such a son?"

"The woman who bears him within her womb is the most fortunate lady in the world."

"Obviously, the Lord has plans for this Narottama to fulfill His mission."

In this way the rumors of the appearance of Narottama spread

far and wide.

A similar event took place again when Mahaprabhu was traveling to Nilacala, suddenly he cried out the name of Srinivasa.
*****all unclear*****

These topics became known to all and everyone waited eagerly anticipating the appearance of Narottama. Oh listeners, please hear attentively as Narahari dasa narrates Narottama Vilasa.

SPELL CHECKED..

The Second Vilasa

All glories to Sri Gauracandra, Nityananda Prabhu, and all the devotees of Mahaprabhu. Please bestow your mercy upon this poor fallen conditioned soul. All glories to those who hear the nectar of this Narottama Vilasa, kindly listen patiently to my narration.

The wheel of time turned, until finally, on the sixth hour of the full moon day in the month of Magha, when all auspicious signs were visible, Narottama dasa took birth to fulfill the mission of the Lord.

His mother, radiant with beauty, wept joyfully as she lovingly gazed at the charming face of her son. An unearthly effulgence suddenly illuminated the entire delivery room and happiness swelled in the hearts of everyone present.

From that moment the village of Sri Kheturi became an auspicious place. The residents suddenly felt purified; as if cleansed of all misgivings. They trembled with ecstatic emotions, tears filled their eyes, and they spontaneously chanted the holy name with devotion. They rushed to the house of Krsnananda carrying all kinds of gifts for the newborn child.

The delighted Datta Mahasaya warmly welcomed them all without taking his eyes off the face of his son for a second, while Krsnananda's exalted father distributed charity profusely to the singers, musicians and others present, for the protection of his grandson.

There was no woman in the world as fortunate as Narottama's mother, Narayani. By the Lord's grace she was granted the eyes to see Gauranga, Nityananda, and Advaita dancing ecstatically within her own home.

Narayani watched jubilantly as her son began to grow like the moon. Similarly, Krsnananda's pleasure knew no bounds as he constantly stared at the jewel-like face of his son. Grateful for his good fortune, he fed the brahmanas daily.

At the appropriate time on an auspicious day, Krsnananda arranged for the ceremony of offering rice to his son. The astrologer present on that joyful occasion noted all the auspicious signs upon the child's body and predicted that the boy would be an illustrious person: "This baby will be the greatest of men, therefore he should be called Narottama."

The festivities went on happily until Krsnananda tried to feed his son the rice. To everyone's dismay the child refused to eat. Although they coaxed him again and again, the boy repeatedly turned

his head away, refusing to eat. The festive atmosphere was replaced with anxiety and everyone looked at each other nervously, not knowing what to do.

The thoughtful astrologer, however, reassured everyone, "Don't worry, this baby will not accept food unless it has first been offered to Lord Visnu."

Thus the rice was offered to Lord Visnu, then again offered to the child. To everyone's relief, the child happily devoured it. From that day on, realizing the value of prasada, the king ordered: "Only food which has been offered to Krsna should be given to my son." Although the worship of Krsna was customary in their family, from the time of Narottama's birth everyone became much more attentive to the service of the Lord.

After a few years Narottama began his studies and soon proved to be a genius. Within a short time he became a scholar in all subjects. The teachers used to comment: "How is it possible that this boy can learn so quickly? Do you think he is an incarnation of God?"

He was an adorable boy and endeared himself to everyone, soon he was the talk of the town: "Just one glance at Narottama is sufficient to cool my mind and chase away all miseries."

"From every angle of vision the prince is beautiful."

"I have never seen such a gorgeous boy."

In this way Krsnananda's son was glorified throughout the town.

Krsnananda was happy simply to gaze upon his son, but as time passed he began to think, "My son is capable in all respects, he must be married soon. I am getting old and should follow the path of my father, it is time to be relieved of my kingly duties." Thus he consulted with the wise Kayastha's to find a suitable bride for his son.

Meanwhile Narottama was lost in the ecstasy of love for Krsna. With eyes full of tears he joyfully worshipped his Lord privately, oblivious to everything else. In this way he lost all taste for mundane pleasures and could not bear to even hear topics related to royal pleasures and properties. Aware of their son's growing apathy for material life, Krsnananda and Narayani were filled with anxiety and could think of nothing else. Finally they decided to appoint someone to constantly watch over their son, but still they were unable to find peace of mind.

Narottama's home became a prison for him and he longed to be free. Although he said nothing, he was constantly waiting for the

opportunity to leave home. Everyday he secretly pleaded desperately for the Lord's help. His body became covered with dust as he rolled on the ground crying. Raising his arms in the air he begged pitifully, "Oh Gauranga! Nitai! Advaita! My Lords, please save me from this hell.

At that time the news of Lord Gauranga's glories was spreading throughout the world. Narottama's only solace was when he received some word of the Lord's pastimes. There was one aged brahmana in Sri Kheturi named Krsnadasa. He was a genuine servant of Lord Krsna and loved Narottama deeply. He could not let a single day pass without seeing Narottama. That brahmana, Krsnadasa, was so powerful by dint of his devotion, that no one dare disobey him.

Everyday after completing his worship of Krsna, Krsnadasa would visit Narottama. Narottama welcomed him with wholehearted enthusiasm, humbly falling prostrate at his feet. Offering him a seat, he would then eagerly enquiring about Lord Caitanya and His associates. Krsnadasa happily narrated the pastimes of the Lord in three parts (Adi, Madhya and Antya). He went on to glorify the transcendental activities of Nityananda and Advaita with such emotion then even wood or stone would melt upon hearing his devotional narration. He explained the life histories of Pandita Gadadhara, Pandita Srivasa, Vakresvara, Svarupa, Murari, Haridasa, Narahari Dasa, Gauridasa, Gadadhara, Vasu Ghosh, Mukunda, Sanjaya, Damodara, Kasisvara, Sri Paramananda Bhattacharya, Krsnadasa brahmacari, Loka-natha Varya, Sanatana, Rupa, Sri Gopala, Raghunatha, Raghunatha Bhatta, Sri Jiva, Suvuddhi Misra, Raghava, Krsna Pandita and others.

He then narrated the story of Srinivasa Acarya's birth. Krsnadasa took hold of Narottama's hands and tearfully said, "Oh Narottama, how can I describe the wonderful qualities of Srinivasa? In his youth he was renowned as a great scholar and the embodiment of love and devotion. When he left for Nilacala to meet Sri Caitanya, along the way he received the stunning news that the Lord had disappeared from this world. He was devastated and immediately fell unconscious. Only due to the wish of the Lord did life remain within his body."

The glories of the Lord's devotees are described by Kavi Karnapura in Gunalesasucakam: "Glory to Srila Srinivasa Prabhu, the embodiment of mercy, who was born in a Rarhi brahmin family in Ghantesvari. In his childhood he conquered the world by his scholastic genius. Upon hearing about Lord Caitanya, Srinivasa rushed to Nilacala to see the Lord."

"Glory to Srinivasa Prabhu who fell unconscious on the road to Nilacala upon hearing of Sri Mahaprabhu's disappearance. After regaining consciousness he frantically cut his own beautiful hair and so doing hurt his forehead, then he continued on to Purusottama remembering the lotus feet of Mahaprabhu."

In a dream Lord Caitanya appeared before Srinivasa, encouraging him to go on to Nilacala. Upon seeing Srinivasa, everyone there shed tears. Gadadhara, Vakresvara Pandita and others welcomed him into their association. Showering their mercy upon him they ordered him to go to Vrndavana. Srinivasa first took darsana of Sri Jagannatha and then started for Gaura via Srikhanda. After reaching Gaura he again returned to Nilacala via Srikhanda, but along the way he heard that Gadadhara Pandita Gosvami had disappeared from the world. Devastated, Srinivasa turned around and headed back towards Gaura, looking like a man on the verge of death. After traveling sometime he lay down and fell asleep. In his dream Sri Pandita Gosvami appeared before Srinivasa and lovingly consoled him.

When he awoke in the morning his mind was still extremely perturbed, yet he continued on towards Gaura. Along the road he met one of the residents of Gaura who informed Srinivasa about the disappearances of Prabhu Nityananda and Advaita. Again, Srinivasa fell unconscious in despair. When he came back to consciousness he immediately decided to commit suicide and began building a fire to throw himself into. However, Nityananda and Advaita prabhu suddenly appeared before Srinivasa. They quickly pacified him and ordered him to go to Vrndavana.

In the morning Srinivasa continued on to Gaura. In Srikhanda he met Narahari and Sri Raghunandana and bowed to their feet. This is described by Kavi Karnapura in Gunalesasucakam: "All glory to Srila Srinivasa prabhu who went to Srikhanda and bowed before Narahari Sarkara Thakura, the dear-most associate of Sri Caitanya Candra. Being ordered by Narahari, Srinivasa also sought the favor of Yadunandana."

When Srinivasa arrived in Navadvipa he was overwhelmed with astonishment to see the Supreme Lord Gauranga and His associates sporting happily there. Srinivasa had been granted the eyes to see this wonderful scene. Actually everyone in Navadvipa was floating in an ocean of sorrow. Srinivasa eagerly went to the house of Prabhu where Visnupriya Devi bestowed her mercy upon him. Dasa Gadadhara, Srivasa and others also welcomed Srinivasa with tears of love in their eyes. From there, Srinivasa went to Santipura to see Sita Devi. Who can describe the loving reception he received from her? In ecstatic trance he traveled on to Khardaha, there Sri Jahnava and Vasudha greeted him with great affection. He then went to Khanakula to receive the blessings of Sri Abhirama and his wife Malini devi. He then returned Srikhanda and met Sri Narahari Thakura who bestowed his mercy upon him and again advised him to go to Vraja. With great affection Sri Raghunandana gave Srinivasa complete instructions for his journey to Vrndavana. Srinivasa went back to Yajigrama to visit his mother and after consoling her, started off alone for Vrajapura."

After hearing this story, spontaneous love for Srinivasa arose within the heart of Narottama. Floating in a river of tears Narottama thought, "When shall I get the company of Srinivasa." Who can understand Narottama's state of mind? Daily he listened attentively to the stories of Prabhu and his devotees, and cursed himself for not having attained their association. His mind was always disturbed, he could not eat, nor could he sleep at night.

One day, due to the desire of the Lord, Narottama fell asleep and in his dream he saw Gauraraya. His splendid beauty could not be compared to gold, lightning, or anything else of this world. The beautiful curling hair hanging down His back could turn the mind of even the most virtuous woman. His earrings shone brightly and His lotus eyes were the trap of Cupid. His smiling face could easily defeat the effulgence of the moon, and the beautiful tilak on His forehead could capture one's breath. His graceful hands swept down to His knees, and how broad His chest was. Beautiful jewelled garlands hung around His conch-like neck, and His deep naval was finely shaped. His thin waist defeated even the lion. His knees looked like toppled banana trees, and His feet were more attractive than lotuses. How gorgeous was His three fold loin cloth. Observing the beauty of Prabhu, Narottama shed tears of love and fell on the feet of the Lord. Placing His feet on Narottama's head, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu said sweetly, "Oh, Narottama, look at me. I cannot bear your tears. Don't worry, go straight to Vrndavana. There you will be initiated by my dear devotee Lokanatha. He will happily pour the nectar of the Mahamantra into your ears. I have many plans which are to be served by you." Narottama's sleep was then broken.

Narottama could not bear Prabhu's disappearance and he rolled on the ground in disappointment. Thus again, due to the Lord's wish, Narottama fell asleep. In his dream he saw Lord Caitanya on the bank of the Ganges in Navadvipa. He was enjoying His pastimes along with Nityananda, Advaita, Gadadhara, Srivasa, Svarupa, Narahari, Haridasa, Vakresvara, Mukunda, Murari, Govinda, Madhava, Vasu Ghosh, Suklambara, Gauridasa, Sri Sanjaya, Damodara, Mahesa, Sankara, and Yadu Acarya. All of them surrounded Gauranga as they engaged in sankirtana, while the people of Navadvipa witnessed their divine pastimes. Eager to inspect this beautiful scene, even Brahma, Siva and other demigods and goddesses mingled with the crowd in disguise. Even the animals and birds were charmed. Those who were born blind, were suddenly able to see and rushed to observe the extraordinary sankirtana performance. Seeing this wonderful fun, Narottama wept with joy. On seeing Narottama, Prabhu Gauracandra emotionally took him to His bosom and soaked Narottama with His tears. Narottama fell on Prabhu's feet, and the Lord affectionately lifted him from the ground and put him in the care of Nityananda and Advaita. He also helped Narottama to obtain the mercy of His associates, and they all advised Narottama to go to Vrndavana. Narottama was unable to control his emotions. Observing the beauty of Nityananda, Narottama fell on His feet,

and Nityananda put His feet on Narottama's head, blessing him with unconditional love for Sri Gauranga, then advised him to go to Vrndavana. Upon seeing the beauty of Advaita, Narottama fell at his feet, who at once lifted Narottama and placed him at the lotus feet of Gauranga. He bowed to the feet of Gadadhara, Srivasa and others who also embraced Narottama one by one. Narottama bathed in the tears of everyone. All of them encouraged Narottama to go to Vrndavana. Narottama then woke up and it was morning. He consoled himself and finished his daily morning duties. He wept with joy as he began to see many auspicious signs, indicating good fortune. In anticipation he waited, hoping that the fortunate moment would soon arise.

Shortly thereafter, Narottama's father and his men went to Gaura for business. Narottama seized the opportunity. He somehow managed to trick his mother, then he deceived the guard watching over him and quickly left his home secretly. In fear of being caught, Narottama did not visit Navadvipa, but started towards Vrndavana through the woods. He disguised himself in such a way that no one could identify him. For fifteen days he ran at random, then heaved a sigh of relief.

The miserable condition of Narottama's parents was beyond description. Narottama became the talk of Gaura, "Prince Narottama must have gone to Vrajapura."

"He must be the Narottama whom Prabhu had called for in Ramakeli village."

"The strength of mind he has manifested is not known to an ordinary man."

In this way Narottama became very popular in that town. Nityananda, Advaita and other favorite associates of Sri Caitanya always thought of Narottama's well being. It is said that he who was fortunate enough to have seen Narottama could forget his fear of material life.

Narottama undauntedly passed through the main roads now. Who can describe Narottama's sincere efforts in the service of the Lord? Traveling along the road he sang the glories of Gauranga with continuous streams of tears rolling down his face. Those who just once looked upon the face of Narottama, attained peace of mind. The villages which Narottama selected to halt at each night became blessed by his presence. Whether male or female, anyone who kept company with Narottama during his journey would comment softly amongst themselves about the wonderful characteristics of Narottama: "Even the golden campaka flower would become ashamed to see the beautiful color of this young man's complexion."

"Look at his beautiful face and big eyes. How superb his nose, cheeks, eyebrows, forehead and ears are."

Some one else said, "Look how long his hands are and how broad his chest is."

"Who are the fortunate parents of this extraordinary man with such beautiful knees and feet."

Some one said, "He cannot be an ordinary human being. He must be a demigod or a son of a king."

Another person remarked, "Alas, how sad it is that such a young man has become apathetic toward family life."

Others said, "We wonder how his parents are living without him."

"Fie to providence, who has no mercy for this boy and has dragged him out of his family at such an young age."

Being extremely moved by Narottama's presence, no one wanted to return to their houses. They brought many things for Narottama to eat and offered him a comfortable bed to sleep on. But Narottama could not eat or sleep, he spent the night in sankirtana. Everyone felt sad to see the body of Narottama smeared with dust. In the morning the villagers did not want to let him go, but Narottama begged their leave. This was the normal scene which occurred daily along his journey to Vraja, Narottama stole the hearts of everyone he met.

Within a short time Narottama visited all the holy places and at last, with an enchanted mind, entered Vrndavana. First of all he went to visit Visrama Ghat in Sri Mathura, where he bathed in the Yamuna and took some rest. In the solitude of the night he began kirtana there. At that time a great vaisnava resident of Mathura came there carrying many varieties of Krsna prasada and affectionately fed Narottama. Narottama asked him about the well being of Vraja. With a pierced heart the brahmana informed him of the demise of Raghunatha, Kasisvara, Rupa and Sanatana. On hearing of the disappearance of Rupa and Sanatana, Narottama fell on the ground crying. Striking his head on the ground he called out, "Kasisvara Pandita, Sri Bhatta Raghunatha." Tears streamed from his eyes like a river and he was about to faint. Seeing the death-like state of Narottama, the brahmana took him in his lap and consoled him. They spent most of the night together discussing many topics. Late at night, due to the will of the Lord, both of them fell asleep. In Narottama's dream, Rupa, Sanatana, Kasisvara and Raghunatha appeared before Narottama. Narottama at once fell on their feet. All of them embraced Narottama and soaked him with their tears. They spoke sweetly to Narottama, some of which the brahmana could hear. With great satisfaction they showered their blessings upon Narottama and then disappeared.

Narottama was unable to tolerate their disappearance, he began

to lament gazing desperately in all directions. The brahmana was astonished to see Narottama's condition. He hastily took Narottama in his lap and tearfully spoke sweetly to him, thanking him for his purifying association. After considerable time the brahmana's emotions cooled and he begged Narottama to come to his house in the morning. Narottama bowed before the brahmana requested him to let him go, "Please be kind to me and let me go, for I am dying to see the feet of the Gosvamis. Please be merciful and help me to fulfill my desires." With tears in his eyes the brahmana affectionately took him in his lap and blessed him. He accompanied Narottama for some distance but due to his old age could not walk further. Thus he gave Narottama directions to reach Vrndavana and ordered one man to assist Narottama in his journey. After Narottama's departure, the brahmana, with a broken heart, stood staring at the path.

While walking Narottama began to think, "Caitanya Mahaprabhu has brought such a low and unqualified man as me here to the sacred land of Vrndavana. He has sent me to the abode of mercy, Sri Lokanatha Gosvami prabhu. Will he accept me as his servant? Will I be able to hold the lotus feet of Sri Gopala Bhatta, Sri Bhugarbha Gosvami, Sri Jiva Gosvami and others on my head? Will they show their mercy to a worthless man like me? Srinivasa Acarya who is the embodiment of love, will he love a poor soul like me?" Thinking in this way his eyes filled with tears, his body trembled uncontrollably and he was unable to walk a single step further.

Meanwhile, on the same night that Narottama entered Vrndavana, Srinivasa suddenly became overwhelmed with joy for no apparent reason. He took this as a good sign and tears of love began to fall from his eyes as he thought, "I'm probably going to meet a very dear friend." In eager anticipation he began kirtana and continued on throughout the night. However, late into the night he fell asleep. In his dream Sri Rupa Gosvami appeared before him saying, "Oh Srinivasa, in the morning you will meet Narottama." Thus speaking, he disappeared.

In the morning when Srinivasa awoke he rushed to meet Sri Jiva Gosvami and revealed his dream. Sri Jiva Gosvami was very happy to hear the news, as he had been in great anxiety waiting for Narottama's arrival. He told Srinivasa, "Previously Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu told me about Narottama, and I have already told you about him. This is that Narottama for whom we have been waiting for so long." Saying this, Sri Jiva hurried off to the temple of Sri Govinda, and Srinivasa happily returned to his house.

Suddenly a person approached Srinivasa and informed him, "A prince has come from Gaura. He is a young man with beautiful features and his body is soaked with tears. I cannot describe the wonderful emotions of that man after observing the face of Sri Govinda. Crying incessantly, Sri Jiva Gosvami took him in his lap and welcomed him with sweet words. He sent me to bring you to

that place." Hearing this, Srinivasa could not control his emotions and began running to the temple of Govinda.

Srinivasa was overwhelmed to at last see Narottama. Like a poor man who has gained a priceless gem, Srinivasa rushed to embrace Narottama. What Srinivasa expressed to Narottama through his embrace, I am unable to describe. Nor can I explain with one mouth how Narottama felt upon meeting Srinivasa? Everyone began to whisper about the uncommon friendship between Srinivasa and Narottama. They became such close friends that one could hardly differentiate one from the other. Sri Govinda had at last fulfilled the desires of Narottama. Sri Krsna Pandita, the head priest of Sri Govinda, brought the garlands worn by the Deity for both of them. It should be noted that Sri Krsna Pandita was a great scholar and intimate associate of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. After the demise of Kasisvara Pandita, Sri Krsna Pandita became the head priest of Sri Govinda. Everyone knew that Sri Krsna Pandita had great love for Narottama. Narottama humbly bowed to the feet of Sri Krsna Pandita.

Sri Jiva Gosvami quickly took Narottama to the solitary hermitage of Sri Loka-natha Gosvami. They found him alone in a secluded place where he had been suffering the misery of separation from Rupa and Sanatana. Sri Jiva Gosvami bowed to his feet and slowly told him about Narottama. Loka-natha had been restlessly waiting for Narottama to come, now seeing Narottama before him, Loka-natha began to float in an ocean of tears. Narottama fell at the feet of his spiritual master, and Loka-natha placed his feet on Narottama's head. With sweet words he assured Narottama that after a few days he would initiate him. Again and again Loka-natha asked Sri Jiva, "Please help him to establish his grasp of devotional books." To Srinivasa he affectionately said, "Always make sure he is properly situated on the path of devotion". Thus speaking, Loka-natha uttered the names of Rupa and Sanatana and extracted a heavy sigh. Observing Gosvami, Sri Jiva was unable to check his tears. Sri Jiva took his leave and left to take darsana of the lotus feet of Sri Radhavina-nada.

Thereafter Sri Jiva Gosvami took Narottama to meet Gopala Bhatta Gosvami. He was also sitting alone in a secluded place, cultivating the memories of Rupa and Sanatana. I have no words to accurately depict the sweet relationship between Sri Gopala Bhatta and Sri Sanatana Gosvami. This has been described in one sloka: "I worship Sri Gopala Bhatta Gosvami whose heart is filled with love for Sanatana and the friendship of Sri Rupa. He who worships them, is able to obtain mercy of Sri Gopala Bhatta. I worship Sri Gopala Bhatta whose life and soul is Sri Radharamana."

Sri Jiva Gosvami bowed to the feet of Gopala Bhatta Gosvami, who was very happy to meet Narottama. Narottama fell at his feet and Gosvami at once showed him great affection, warmly embracing Narottama and soaking his body with tears. Sri Jiva and Narottama

offered their obeisances and went for darsana of the lotus feet of Sri Radharamana. They also went to the temples of Sri Govinda, Gopinatha and Madanamohana.

While conversing together they entered the temple of Sri Gopinatha, and Sri Jiva introduced Narottama to Sri Madhu Pandita. Narottama immediately touched the lotus feet of Sri Pandita. Sri Pandita affectionately held Narottama to his bosom and brought him to see Sri Radha Gopinatha. He gave the garland which had decorated the Deity to Narottama.

Sri Jiva Gosvami then took Srinivasa and Narottama to the house of Sri Bhugarbha Gosvami, a great scholar and inseparable associate of Sri Loka-natha Gosvami. He always spent his days in remembrance of Mahaprabhu. Sri Jiva Gosvami introduced him to Narottama, who at once touched the feet of Gosvami. Bhugarbha Gosvami embraced him very lovingly. After bowing to his feet, Sri Jiva returned to his house with Srinivasa and Narottama and brought them before Sri Sri Radha Damodara. Narottama was overwhelmed with love at the sight of the Deity. How can I describe Narottama's state of mind upon seeing the tomb of Sri Rupa Gosvami? Tears streamed down his face as he rolled on the ground. Gradually, his body became still and there was no sign of heaving. Srinivasa quickly took him in his lap. Sri Jiva pacified him and took him to his cottage.

Sri Jiva then received a message to go quickly to Govindaji Temple. Thus he, Srinivasa and Narottama went to the temple and observed the rajabhoga arati of Sri Govinda. After respecting mahaprasada they returned to Sri Jiva's cottage. There they spent time discussing topics related to Krsna. Later they went to the temple of Sri Madanamohana and observed the uthvapana arati of the Deity. Sri Jiva then introduced Narottama to everyone there. Seeing Sri Madanamohana, Narottama became overwhelmed with love, forgetting himself he wept incessantly. The Gosvami priest lovingly gave him the garland which had decorated the Deity. Sri Jiva then took him to the tomb of Sanatana Gosvami. One mouth is incapable of describing the emotions of Narottama upon observing Sanatana's tomb. With great affection Sri Jiva pacified Narottama and brought him to his cottage. There he put Narottama into the hands of his dear Srinivasa. With great happiness Srinivasa bowed to the feet of Sri Jiva and started for his cottage with Narottama, where they spent the entire night discussing topics related to Krsna. In the morning, they bathed in the Yamuna and worshipped the Lord. With joyful minds they went to see Sri Jiva Gosvami, who immediately sent them to the Radha Kunda.

After observing the beauty of the two kunda's, they went to the place of Sri dasa Gosvami and Srinivasa cautiously introduced Narottama to him. Though Dasa Gosvami had been in a miserable state of mind due to separation from the Lord and His devotees, he suddenly became very happy. "Where is Narottama"? Saying this

he opened his eyes. Narottama bowed to his lotus feet. Being affectionately moved, Dasa Gosvami showered his mercy upon Narottama. Narottama was then introduced to all the great scholars there. Sri Raghava Pandita, who had been living at Govardhana, was extremely happy to see Narottama. Srinivasa and Narottama finished their travels to all the sacred spots then reported back to Sri Jiva.

Without delay Sri Jiva happily began educating Narottama. During his studies Narottama won the hearts of all with his sensitive and scholastic explanations. Who can understand the heart of Narottama? His service attitude towards Lokanatha Gosvami was beyond compare, and Lokanatha Gosvami was extremely pleased with his beloved disciple. One day, observing Narottama's eagerness, Lokanatha fulfilled Narottama's long cherished desire and initiated him into the chanting of the Mahamantra. Everyone in Vrndavana was greatly impressed by the depth of Narottama's understanding of devotional scriptures. Thus, to everyone's pleasure, Sri Jiva Gosvami conferred upon Narottama the title of 'Sri Thakura Mahasaya.' All the mahantas were filled with joy and Narottama's fame rapidly spread throughout Vrajapura. The practice of manasa seva in Vrndavana was first started by Narottama (this episode has been described in Bhaktiratnakara.)

Please listen attentively as I describe how Narottama again returned to Gaura. I, Narahari dasa continue the narration of Sri Narottama Vilasa.

SPELL CHECKED..

THE THIRD VILASA

All glories to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Nityananda, Advaita Acarya and all the devotees. Please bestow your mercy upon me. All glories to the listeners, who are an ocean of mercy. Now listen attentively as I continue my narration.

After consulting with all the mahantas of Vraja, Sri Jiva Gosvami determined an auspicious date for sending the Gosvami's manuscripts to Gaura. Previously the Lord Himself had predicted that these books would be distributed far and wide. Thus Sri Jiva handed over all the precious manuscripts to Srinivasa Acarya, who was responsible for carrying them to Gaura. In this regard Sri Thakura Mahasaya composed one famous sloka: "When shall I see the abode of mercy, Sri Caitanya Deva, who has distributed His power in two ways; He invested Sri Rupa, and others, with the power to write devotional books wherein priceless treasures of spiritual knowledge shine like brilliant jewels. And He has empowered Srinivasa to circulate them. Thus I worship the lotus feet of Sri Caitanya Deva who has manifested these two powerful mediums to shower His mercy upon this world."

Sri Jiva Gosvami's knowledge and devotion was deeper than millions oceans. Although his outward expression was most stable, inwardly he was extremely emotional and greatly perturbed at the thought of separation from Narottama and Srinivasa. Nevertheless, he calmly helped Srinivasa to say good-bye to everyone and gave him his blessings to start for Gaura at an auspicious moment.

With great affection Lokanatha Gosvami handed over his dear disciple, Narottama, to the hands of Srinivasa. Again and again he instructed Narottama, "Always remember to serve the Deities and dedicate your life to spreading the sankirtana movement." Narottama happily accepted these instructions as his life and soul, and Srinivasa accepted the charge of Narottama jubilantly. Putting Syamananda and Narottama under the care of Srinivasa, Sri Jiva said, "From now on, these boys are yours." He ordered Syamananda, "First go to Gaura, then travel to Utkala via Sri Amvika Puri." (This is elaborately described in Bhaktiratnakara). Thus taking the blessings of all the mahantas, they started their long journey to Gaura. The carts filled with the priceless treasure of books moved ahead and eleven armed guards from Vraja followed behind. With a disturbed mind, Sri Jiva Gosvami accompanied the party to Mathura. The residents of Mathura greeted them ecstatically and they rested there for the night. Their departure the following morning, however, was a pathetic scene, no one could bear to see them go.

After a long journey Srinivasa, Narottama and Syamananda finally reached Gauramandala and headed through the woods in the direction of Vanavisnupura. In the midst of the forest they came upon a village where they decided to halt for the night. Generally

they were extremely cautious about protecting the books at night. However, on this night, due the desire of the Lord, they all fell sound asleep.

Meanwhile, the local king, Vira Hamvira, had received a report that many carts filled with jewels, carried by a number of wealthy persons, had arrived in their village. Hearing this, the enthusiastic king at once sent a team of dacoits to rob them. The dacoits easily robbed the treasure and carried them to the king. Without even opening the trunks the king was suddenly overwhelmed with awe and bowed to the ground again and again. Bewildered, the king exclaimed, "Oh, what has happened to me. What kind of jewels are in these trunks?" Saying this the king began to weep inexplicably. In this way the goddess of devotion transcendently tricked the king. Feeling uncertain about the robbery, the king secretly opened the trunks and found the books. Repentant, he cried out, "Alas, what have I done. I don't even know who the gentlemen are whom I have hurt. If I am fortunate enough to meet them, I shall certainly seek their refuge and return their books." Sitting alone in a secluded place the king lamented in this way.

In the morning when Srinivasa and his party awoke they were horrified to find that the precious life-long works of the Gosvami's had been stolen by dacoits. The miserable scene which then ensued was too heart-breaking to describe. Throwing themselves on the ground they cried out loudly in utter despair. They were unable to pacify one another. A long time passed in heated lamentation, until Srinivasa calmed himself down and tried to pacify the others. "On our long journey we passed safely through many dangerous places. But here we accidentally fell asleep and everything has been easily stolen. There must be some hidden purpose behind this incident." Sri Thakura Mahasaya also took heart and privately said, "This must be a divine arrangement to show special mercy to this country." At that time an oracle was suddenly heard in the sky, "Do not worry, the books will soon be recovered."

Shortly thereafter, someone whispered to Srinivasa, "The king is the real culprit, go to Vanavisnupura." Hearing this, Srinivasa first consoled his companions and sent a letter to Vrndavana. He requested Sri Thakura Mahasaya to go to Kheturi without hesitation, and told Syamananda, "Go immediately to Utkala via Sri Kheturi. I shall go to Vanavisnupura and fetch the books, then I will send you a letter to reassure you that the books have been recovered. Now don't worry and don't think about anything else." Saying this he bade farewell to them. It was impossible for them to disobey the order of Sri Acarya, yet they could not conceal their grief when they were about to leave. Together Narottama and Syamananda traveled to Kheturi, but Narottama did not let Syamananda go on to Utkala.

In Vanavisnupura Srinivasa bestowed his mercy upon King Vira

Hamvira, who happily returned the books without hesitation. Later the king, along with his followers and family, took shelter under the lotus feet of Srinivasa and became great devotees. This incident is elaborately described in Bhaktiratnakara.

Relieved and happy, Sri Acarya Thakura sent word to Vrndavana assuring the devotees that the books had been recovered. He also sent a letter to relieve the minds of Thakura Mahasaya and Syamananda in Kheturi. Upon receiving the news they joyfully raised their hands, singing and dancing ecstatically. Sri Santosa Datta, the son of Sri Purusottama Datta, was also jubilant. Santosa was the son of Narottama's uncle and was full of all good qualities. Krsnananda Datta had appointed him as the heir to the throne. He was a good and kind hearted king and gave profuse charity to the brahmanas, scholars and poor. Sri Thakura Mahasaya happily sent a reply to Srinivasa in Vanavishnupura.

Thereafter Syamananda took his leave. The parting of Narottama and Syamananda was a pathetic scene. Even the animals and birds cried upon hearing the loving exchange between the two dear friends. Sri Thakura Mahasaya selected an escort to accompany Syamananda to Utkala, and Syamananda began his journey with a heavy heart.

Syamananda traveled to Amvika via Navadvipa. There he was overwhelmed with ecstatic emotion upon observing the temple of Sri Gaura-Nitai. Seeing Syamananda crying helplessly, someone rushed to inform Sri Hrdaya Caitanya of Syamananda's arrival, "Your Dukhi Krsnadasa is here. I saw him lying on the ground in front of the temple praying to the Lord with extreme humility. I was completely amazed by the boy's expressions of love and devotion. I cannot describe how his eyes incessantly shed tears. Since he did not come to see you, I ran here immediately to inform you of his arrival."

Hearing this, Thakura was jubilant and excitedly requested that the man immediately bring Syamananda to see him, "I am eagerly waiting for him", he said. "I am very proud of his devotional service. After taking initiation from me, he lived here for a long time and captured Sri Nitai Caitanya with the bonds of his love. I affectionately sent him to Vrndavana, where he completed his devotional studies. During that time he wrote me regularly to inform me of his progress. Understanding his thirst for knowledge, I permitted him to carry on. In Vrndavana he was so happily engaged in the service of the Nikunja, that eventually his name was changed from Dukhi to Syamananda. Everyone in Vrndavana loves him dearly. He had already written to me that he would be coming here soon. By the desire of Gaura Nitai he will perform exalted service which will be acknowledged throughout the world. Mind you, he is my favorite disciple and I am anxious to see him after such a long time."

At that moment Syamananda appeared on the spot and fell at the feet of his spiritual master. Sri Hrdaya Caitanya Thakura affectionately placed his feet on Syamananda's head. When he tried to embrace his disciple, Syamananda shrank away and stood in a distant place. Nevertheless Thakura grabbed him and embraced him lovingly then took him to the temple of Mahaprabhu. There he dedicated Syamananda to the feet of Gaura-Nitai. Thakura then brought Syamananda to his house and gave him the remnants of his food to eat, which Syamananda happily relished. Thakura eagerly inquired about recent events, and Syamananda pleased his guru with an elaborate description of everything.

Syamananda stayed with his spiritual master for a long time serving him wholeheartedly. However, one day Hrdaya Caitanya said, "Do not delay any longer, you must leave for Utkala at once. The Lord has many plans for you to execute there." Saying this, he brought Syamananda before Gaura-Nitai and gave him the garland offered to the Deities. After bestowing his blessings upon Syamananda, Hrdaya Caitanya bade him farewell. Crying pathetically, Syamananda said goodbye to his spiritual master, who was also unable to hold back his tears.

I will not describe Syamananda's journey to Utkala, but I shall mention that along the way Syamananda freely distributed his mercy and saved many fallen souls from the repetition of birth and death. In Utkala he accepted many disciples, of which Sri Rasikananda was one. Due to the powerful preaching of Syamananda and his disciples the whole country became purified. I have elaborately described these incidents in Bhaktiratnakara.

When Syamananda finally reached Utkala he immediately sent a letter to Sri Thakura Mahasaya to inform him of his safe arrival. Thakura Mahasaya, who had been waiting anxiously to hear from Syamananda, was happy and relieved to receive his letter. He immediately sent the letter on to the devotees in Vanavisnupura, and wrote a reply to Syamananda.

Sri Thakura Mahasaya then left Kheturi and started for Navadvipa, traveling like a maddened elephant, absorbed in a trance of loving ecstacy. A continuous shower of tears streamed down his face, wetting his chest. Everyone who saw him observed his expressions of divine love with astonishment. As he passed through various villages the residents became enchanted by his presence and followed along behind him. Once he set foot in a village, the inhabitants ran to greet him, swarming around him like bumblebees. And when he left the village, the inhabitants sank into the depths of sorrow.

Traveling in this way he eventually reached the boarder of Navadvipa. Observing the beautiful countryside he began to lament, "Oh, most merciful Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Why have you sent me into this world now? Being unable to witness your divine pastimes

in Nadia I am lost in intense suffering." Thinking in this way, he walked on very slowly, crying pitifully. But to his astonishment, when he entered Navadvipa proper, he found that each and every house was full of joy and happiness. In every corner the loud chanting of "Hari, Hari" resounded. From all directions men and women eagerly rushed to the house of Sri Caitanya. There the Lord and His associates danced ecstatically in sankirtana, thus Navadvipa was floating in the an ocean of happiness.

For some time Narottama enjoyed the vision of this joyous scene, when suddenly, everything changed. Again the city of Nadia was sunk into the depths of despair. Narottama burst out crying, "Oh Lord, what have I seen?" Narottama sat thoughtfully for some time, then eventually asked a passerby where he could find the house of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. With his head hung down, tears streaming from his eyes, the man replied, "Look over there, that is the house of Prabhu, you can go in this way." Seeing the Lord's house Narottama began to cry also.

At that time Suklambara brahmacari happened to be passing by and his curiosity was aroused upon seeing Narottama. Narottama bowed to his feet, and Suklambara asked, "Who are you"? When Narottama stated his name, Suklambara immediately broke out in tears and warmly embraced Narottama with deep affection. With a choked voice he explained to Narottama, "When Gauracandra was absorbed in ecstatic trance in the village of Ramakeli, He lovingly called out your name. At that time he predicted your arrival here. Who can understand the mystery of the Lord's pastimes? Oh my son, all the mahantas, including myself, have been eagerly waiting for you. Actually Prabhu's disappearance is unbearable for us. Many of the Lord's associates have already left this world due to separation."

He then introduced himself to Narottama and brought him to meet all the other remaining devotees of Gauranga. Narottama worshipped everyone's feet, and they embraced him. Though they were merged in intense suffering due to separation from the Lord, they immediately felt relief and happiness upon seeing Narottama. They eagerly questioned Narottama about many things, and he happily answered them all. Damodara Pandita and others did not want Narottama to leave them, thus Narottama stayed in Nadia a few more days in the houses of the favorite associates of Mahaprabhu. Narottama was so fortunate that in his dreams he was able to meet, those devotees who he had not met there due to their demise.

After a few days passed the devotees reluctantly, and with heavy hearts, allowed Narottama to leave. They told him sweetly, "Prabhu has kept us alive only to see you. But, alas, we will not be able to see Srinivasa." Saying this, their voices choked with emotion. With a perturbed mind, Narottama touched everyone's feet and went to Gauracandra's house for a final visit. There he found even the servants and maidservants of Prabhu on the verge of death,

due to separation. Seeing Narottama, their misery doubled. Blessing Narottama they said, "Due to the wish of Prabhu, you will execute His plans and perform wonderful service." Then they bade him farewell. Narottama cried loudly and fell on the ground in the courtyard of Gauranga. After a long time, he controlled himself and started for Santipura.

Narottama was charmed by the beauty of Santipura. He went to the house of Advaita Acarya and worshipped the feet of Sri Acyutananda, son of Advaita Prabhu. He was merciful to Narottama and introduced to him to all the devotees. Later he ordered Narottama, "Go to Nilacala first and then come back to your place and begin to popularize kirtana." Saying this he began to weep and his thin body trembled. Narottama again worshipped the feet of all the devotees and took his leave.

Arriving at Harinadi village he crossed the Ganges and entered Amvika. There he asked someone where he could find the house of Hrdaya Caitanya Pandita, and found out that he was not far away. Someone who had seen Narottama pass by, rushed ahead to Hrdaya Caitanya and informed him excitedly, "A beautiful young man who is filled with love for Gaura-Nitai is coming to see you." Sri Hrdaya Caitanya immediately understood that it was non-other than his beloved Narottama. Filled with emotion, he ran to the door step to welcome his disciple. Narottama fell at the feet of his Guru, who tearfully welcomed him, taking him in his lap. He then took Narottama to the temple of Gaura-Nitai for darsana. Seeing his beloved Lord's before him, Narottama fell on the ground crying. Hrdaya Caitanya pacified him and gave him the Deities garland.

With great affection, Sri Hrdaya Caitanya kept Narottama with him for two to four days and then, after dedicating him to the feet of Gaura-Nitai, ordered him to go to Nilacala. All the great Bhagavatas, including Sri Hrdaya Caitanya, were deeply aggrieved to see him go.

Narottama traveled quickly, eager to reach Khardaha. He became so excited upon entering Khardaha proper, that he lost his usual reserve. Mahesa Pandita and others rushed to greet Narottama when they saw him approaching. "We were dying with separation from the Lord," they said, "but now you have come to soothe our aching hearts, like a cooling oasis in the desert of misery. We have known about you for a long time and have already heard about your travels to Vrndavana, the stealing of the manuscripts, as well as your visit to Navadvipa. We are so happy to finally see you." Saying this they each introduced themselves, and Narottama tearfully worshipped their feet.

Thereafter they took Narottama to the house of Prabhu. When Sri Vasu and Jahnava were told of Narottama's arrival, they eagerly requested that he be brought to the interior of the house immediately. Entering the room, Narottama felt himself extremely

fortunate and worshipped the feet of the two Isvari's, then bowed to the lotus feet of Sri Virabhadra. Upon seeing Narottama, Sri Vasu and Jahnava could not conceal their overwhelming love for him. "The title Mahasaya is rightly attributed to him," they said. Out of affection, they kept Narottama with them for four days and all of the devotees of Khardaha came to meet him. Sri Vasu, Jahnava and Viracandra could not bear to be separated from him for a moment. The all-knowing Sri Jahnava Thakurani privately spoke to Narottama and ordered him to go to Nilacala soon. At the time of Narottama's departure, Mahesa Pandita and others embraced Narottama again and again and also advised him to go to Nilacala. Crying, Narottama bowed to their feet and took his leave. The devotees accompanied him for some distance, then after pacifying Narottama, they returned home. He who attentively hears this narration of Narottama's journey in Gaura will have his desires fulfilled. So listen carefully as I, Sri Narahari Dasa, narrate Narottama Vilasa.

SPELL CHECKED.

THE FOURTH VILASA

All glories to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Nityananda Prabhu, Advaita Acarya, and all the devotees of the Lord. Please shower your mercy upon this poor soul. All glories to the all-merciful listeners. Now listen attentively as I narrate this episode of Narottama Vilasa.

As Sri Thakura Mahasaya began his journey to Nilacala his mind was filled with loving thoughts of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. With due reverence Narottama choose to take the same road which had formerly been traversed by Sri Caitanya Candra Himself. At night Narottama halted at the same villages which the Lord had chosen as His resting place, and also discussed topics of Krsna with the local people, just as Mahaprabhu had done previously. When Narottama happened to meet someone who had personally met Mahaprabhu, he could not check his emotions and cried uncontrollably. Everyone who meet Narottama was extremely pleased and immediately began glorifying him, "Sri Krsna Caitanya is the most merciful and loving incarnation. Only one who is His great devotee is capable of displaying such divine attributes as we see in this handsome young man. Just see how gracefully walks, and how comforting it is to one's eyes to simply glance upon his face." Speaking in this way the people became enchanted by the presence of Narottama. In the morning when it was time for Narottama to resume his journey crowds of local people swarmed around him, following along behind him as he walked. Narottama was unable to disperse the crowd, but eventually, with sweet words, he bid them farewell and continued his journey, halting only in those places where Mahaprabhu had performed His divine pastimes.

Narottama became ecstatic upon reaching the place where Nityananda Prabhu had broken the sannyasa stick of Sri Caitanya. He listened intently as the local people described this incidence, then, after expressing his gratitude to those persons, he continued along his way.

An aged brahmana, who was a great Vaisnava scholar, happened to pass Narottama on the road. Observing Narottama's devotional mood, suddenly something came to his mind. He slowly approached Narottama and asked mildly, "What is your name, my son? From when are you coming?"

Upon hearing Narottama's reply the brahmana's suspicion was confirmed. With tears of ecstacy rolling down his face the brahmana warmly embraced Narottama saying, "For so long I have heard about you and I was cherishing the hope of one day meeting you. Today providence has shown its mercy upon me. I have just come Ksetra, where I received the mercy of those associates of Prabhu who are still alive in Nilacala, and now I have luckily found you here. With great pleasure I heard them describe your glories while I resided there. I heard that you were bringing

books from Vrndavana to Gaura, but unfortunately they were stolen along the way. I also heard that you would soon be coming to Ksetra and everyone was eagerly waiting for you. Gopinatha Acarya, Kasi Misra explained that Mahaprabhu had called for you when He visited the village of Ramakeli. At that time Nityananda and other devotees were very happy and since then they have all been eagerly waiting for you. Today, I have received the good fortune to meet you personally, but now you must not delay. Go as quickly as possible to Ksetra and I shall meet you there later."

At that time the brahmana's son arrived there. He introduced his son to Narottama and ordered him to accompany Narottama to Ksetra. The brahmana then happily bade them farewell. Narottama took the dust of the feet of the brahmana to his head and started his journey with the son of the brahmana.

Upon reaching Ksetra, Narottama and his companion observed the beauty of Lake Narendra. Remembering the Lord's Lord's pastimes sporting within the water there, Narottama was unable to hold back his tears. He quickly took his bath and hurried off towards the Lion Gate.

At that time Sri Gopinatha Acarya and other devotees were also walking towards the Simhadvara. While walking Sri Sikhi Mahiti said to Mangaraja, "I can't understand why my mind is leaping with joy." And Kanai Khuntia said, "I don't understand what is about to happen but it is evident from the auspicious omens that something wonderful is awaiting us." Gopinatha Acarya told Vaninatha, "I think we are going to meet Narottama here soon."

As they were speaking in this way the brahmanas son approached them and informed them of Narottama's arrival. Who can describe the devotees jubilation upon receiving this news? The brahmana boy then rushed back to Narottama and helped him to identify the devotees who were approaching from a distance. Seeing all the devotees Narottama was overwhelmed with emotion. He immediately fell on the ground bowing to their feet. With tears streaming from his eyes, Gopinatha Acarya ran to greet Narottama and embraced him affectionately.

Later, when Narottama had calmed down, they took him to the temple to see Sri Jagannatha Deva. After entering through the Lion Gate, Narottama first bowed before Sri Nrsimha Deva. Upon seeing Sri Jagannatha along with Sri Balarama and Sri Subhadra sitting on Their thrones, Narottama was filled with ecstatic emotions. Sri Padmalocana Sri Jagannatha Deva benevolently bestowed His mercy upon Narottama. The priest of Sri Jagannatha Deva, understanding the mind of his Lord, brought Sri Jagannatha Deva's garland and offered it to Narottama.

Narottama was unable to control his emotions and wept incessantly. After pacifying Narottama, Gopinatha Acarya took him to his house. There he instructed one experienced person to

accompany Narottama to the samadhis of the departed associates of the Lord. Thereafter he informed everyone of Narottama's arrival in Nilacala and brought varieties of mahaprasada from the temple for him.

Meanwhile, Narottama came across some persons who were talking to one another in this way: "Alas, Nilacala has now Nilacala become the abode of misery. All the associates of Sri Gauracandra are gradually departing from this world. Sri Gopinatha Acarya and other great Vaisnavas have become lean and weak." Some one else said: "I recently visited Gopinatha and I cannot describe what I saw there. Unable to bear the misery of separation from Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Sri Mamu Gosvami is practically lifeless. He is lying emaciated in a lonely corner. I am afraid that he will die soon." Overhearing this conversation, Narottama's heart ached with misery.

Narottama then traveled on to have darsana of Tota Gopinatha. The vision of the beautiful Lord with His shining black complexion seated upon His throne could easily defeat the pride of Cupid. Narottama, deeply moved, lay prostrate before the Deity crying. Seeing him the priest offered him the Lord's garland. Narottama and his escort then went to see the seat of Sri Pandita Gosvami. He fell on the ground before the seat, and, again the priest gave him a garland. Crying uncontrollably Narottama lamented, "Oh Gadadhara Pandita Gosvami prabhu, how unfortunate I am for not having the opportunity to see you." Narottama's pathetic crying could melt even wood or stone.

Sri Mamu Gosvami, who had been lying in a half-unconscious state crying, suddenly got up and heaving a heavy sigh asked, "Who is crying?" They replied, "Narottama has arrived from Gaura." Upon hearing the name of Narottama, he broke out in floods of tears and embraced Narottama emotionally. Unable to control himself, Mamu Gosvami fell on the ground, and outcry of anguish arose from the devotees in the temple of Gopinatha. By the grace of the Lord, Mamu Gosvami gradually calmed down and everyone was pacified. Though Gosvami's life was in a precarious state, he was exceedingly happy to see Narottama and asked about his well being. Hearing Narottama's sweet words, Mamu Gosvami was He became extremely moved by Narottama's sweet words and thus dedicated Narottama to the feet of Gopinatha and ordered him, "Go to see the tomb of Haridasa Thakura, Gopinatha Acarya is waiting for you there."

Without delay, Narottama and his escort went to the tomb of Haridasa Thakura on the seashore. he was so shaken to see the tomb that no one could pacify him. Eventually, the Vaisnava in charge of the samadhi, managed to slightly console Narottama and sent him to Gopinatha Acarya's house. Gopinatha Acarya was a very warm hearted person, with tender words encouraged Narottama to sit peacefully by his side and told him, "Everyone here is greatly eager to see you. Take some rest now and afterwards you can meet

all the devotees.

How can I describe the state of mind of the residents of Nilacala? Due to the Lord's disappearance, they had given up eating, drinking and sleeping. They lived only in hopes of seeing Narottama. Thus when they saw Narottama approaching their houses, they eagerly rushed out to greet him. As Narottama's escort introduced each devotee, they affectionate embraced him and Narottama and touched their feet. Thereafter they went to the house of Gopinatha who lovingly offered them seats. Everyone had questions to ask Narottama and he answered them all, reporting everything in detail. Thereafter Gopinatha Acarya requested the devotees to relish mahaprasada along with Narottama. After washing their mouths, they returned to their houses and requested Narottama to take some rest.

When it was time to go to the temple, Narottama got up and took his bath and Kanai Khuntia took him to the temple of Jagannatha. Narottama remained there throughout the afternoon, observing all three arati ceremonies (sandhya (evening) and sayana (at bed time)) one after another. He and Kanai Khuntia then returned to the house of Gopinatha Acarya. No one wanted to give up Narottama's association, but on the order of Acarya, they took their leave. Gopinatha, whose affection for Narottama was beyond compare, then requested him to take rest. After Narottama went to bed, Gopinatha also entered into his room.

However, Narottama's mind was too agitated and he was unable to sleep. Yet after some time, by the wish of the Lord, he finally fell asleep and in his dream he saw his worshipful Lord and all the devotees dancing in front of the chariot of Sri Jagannatha. He saw Sri Krsna Caitanya, Nitai, Sri Advaita, Gadadhara Pandita Gosvami, Srivasa Pandita, Murari Gupta, Govinda, Haridasa, Kasi Misra, Ramananda Raya, Vasudeva Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya, Kasisvara, Jagadisa Pandita, Vasu Ghosh, Mukunda, Madhava, Vakresvara, Govinda dasa, Mahesa Pandita, Damodara, Svarupa Gosvami, Suklambara brahmacari, dasa Gadadhara, Yadu, Sri Kansari, Sridhara, Suryadasa, Ramai Sundara, Dhananjaya, Ramananda Vasu Ghosh, Sankara, Sanjaya, Lokanatha, Bhugarbha, Sri Rupa, Sanatana, Sri Jiva, Gopala Bhatta, Krsnadasa brahmacari, Pandita Raghava, Paramananda Bhattacharya, Acarya Madhava, Raghunatha, Raghunatha Bhatta, Sri Tapana Misra, King Sri Prataparudra, Acarya Gopinatha, Sri Sikhi Mahiti etc.

He saw all Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's devotees from Gaura, Vraja, Utkala and South India performing pastimes with the Lord. Who could describe the extraordinary captivating beauty of this scene? Sri Gauracandra danced in the middle surrounded by all the devotees. Inspired by the Lord's presence, the devotees performed ecstatic sankirtana, joyfully dancing, singing and playing musical instruments. The atmosphere was so divine that even the demigods came down from their heavenly abodes to enjoy the Lord's pastimes. As the sound of sankirtana penetrated the air, the entire three

worlds began to float on waves of happiness. Huge crowds of people eagerly pushed forward to get a glimpse of the Lord's beautiful dancing, as the demigods showered flowers on Mahaprabhu's head. Even the lame, the blind and the deaf suddenly forgot their handicaps and dashed forward to join in the sankirtana. Even stone hearted persons wept in joy upon hearing the melodious chanting. Even the animals and birds became restless.

Standing in the corner Narottama joyfully watched this wonderful scene with tears rolling down his cheeks. Seeing Narottama, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, in trance, grabbed hold of Narottama's hands and said mildly, "You must manifest a new type of kirtana which will have the potency to mesmerize the people. Through your songs and music you should explain My pastimes and mission. Don't worry about anything, all your desires will be fulfilled. Now go to Gaura as soon as possible and preach the glories of devotional service. Those who are fortunate enough to take shelter in you, will receive the most precious wealth of love of God. Soon you will link up with Ramacandra, son of Ciranjiva Sena. What else can I say? I shall always take care of you." All the devotees of the Lord were extremely happy to see Lord Caitanya shower His so profusely upon Narottama. Nityananda, Advaita, Gadadhara, Haridasa, Sarvabhauma, Ramananda Raya, Srivasa, Vakresvara and others embraced Narottama tightly. Narottama fell on the ground in a pool of tears. Mahaprabhu's devotees consoled Narottama and advised him to go to Gaura.

Suddenly Narottama awoke with a heavy heart. Somehow he managed to calm himself and hastily finished his morning duties. Afterwards, Gopinatha Acarya sent him with Sikhi Mahiti to Sri Jagannatha Deva's arati. As soon as Narottama began to think about going to Gaura, Lord Jagannatha's garland fell from His neck and the priest gave Narottama that garland. Narottama considered this the Lord's indication to him to leave at once for Gaura. After bowing to the feet of Jagannatha, he went to the house of Gopinatha Acarya and before Narottama could say anything, Gopinatha said, "The Lord has ordered you to go to Gaura." Thus after consulting with the other mahantas of Sriksetra a date was fixed for Narottama's departure.

When Narottama was about to leave the devotees held his hands and said happily, "We eagerly waited to meet you for so long, now are dreams have finally been fulfilled. We are also hoping to have to good fortune to meet Srinivasa Acarya, and perhaps someday we will have the darsana of the exalted Dukhi Krsnadasa, who is now called Syamananda." Saying this they began to weep. Hearing their loving words Narottama was also moved to tears. After assigning an escort to accompany Narottama, they reluctantly bade farewell. Narottama began his journey along with his escort who carefully carried a basket of mahaprasada.

With a heavy heart and tear filled eyes, Narottama traveled

until reaching Narendra lake. There he met the brahmana and his son whom he had met upon arriving at Ksetra. Narottama took the dust of his feet to his head and the brahmana embraced him saying, "Oh my dear Narottama, you are more dear to me than my life. I knew that you would be passing by today on your way to Gaura so I finished my duties as quickly as possible. Now, by the mercy of Jagannatha Deva, you have come. If I would have missed you I would have burned in the fire of my own sorrow." He did not want to let Narottama go but he had to. He blessed Narottama and walking along with him begging again and again to come with him, but Narottama would not consent.

Narottama then started walking swiftly. He took rest for two days at Yajapura and then on to Nrsimhapura. Someone who spotted him rushed ahead and informed Syamananda that Sri Thakura Mahasaya was coming from Ksetra. Syamananda was overwhelmed with ecstasy. Hurriedly, he and his men rushed to greet Sri Thakura Mahasaya. Seeing each other, they were both overcome with emotion and wept and bowed to each other continuously. Narottama held Syamananda tightly to his bosom and did not want to be separated.

Those who observed their meeting were amazed. Someone said, "Oh, how incredible, I have never seen anything so wonderful in my life." Another person commented, "Oh, how lucky I am to see Sri Thakura Mahasaya for whom I was waiting for such a long time." Someone else said, "Will we be so fortunate as to see Acarya Thakura once in our life?" Another person answered, "Certainly Srinivasa Acarya will bestow his mercy upon us." Even the villagers came running to see Sri Thakura Mahasaya. Although Syamananda arranged a solitary house for Sri Thakura Mahasaya, still the people came to see Narottama in his house. Those persons who had the extraordinary good fortune to receive Thakura Mahasaya and Syamananda's association and mercy were fortunate beyond compare. The entire country became blessed by contact with Sri Syamananda.

Sri Thakura Mahasaya happily bathed and performed his other duties. Afterwards he sat down with Syamananda, who slowly informed Narottama, "A few days ago Acarya Thakura left Vanavishnupura for Yajigrama. Yesterday afternoon I received this letter. Please look at it." Narottama cried joyfully and happily read the letter with the utmost care. Syamananda then explained, "He sent another letter along with mahaprasada from Sri Amvika." Again Narottama's hearted surged with happiness and he praised Syamananda for his good fortune. Touching the mahaprasada to his head, he ate some of it and became mad with joy. Sri Thakura Mahasaya ordered his men, "Bring the mahaprasada of Sri Jagannatha" and gave some of it to Syamananda. Narottama then carefully explained to Syamananda, "The associates of Lord Caitanya who are still alive in Nilacala are now suffering greatly due to the miserable fire of separation. I cannot describe their condition. Only due to the Lord's desire they are still alive. They are

simply waiting to see you. So, please do not make delay, start for Nilacala at once. After touching the feet of the devotees there, go to Utkala and benedict the people there by distributing the sublime treasure of pure devotional service. After sometime I will send you a letter, requesting you and your men to go to Kheturi."

Syamananda and Narottama stayed together a few more days, meanwhile the entire village came to know of Syamananda and Narottama's eminent departure. Who could describe the sadness at the time of their separation? All of Syamananda's disciples cried miserably, especially Rasika Murari could not stop crying. Sri Thakura Mahasaya affectionately embraced him and was extremely loving and merciful to all those who had taken shelter at the feet of Syamananda. Thakura Mahasaya blessed all of them and then started for Gaura. At this point Syamananda helplessly broke out in tears and no one could pacify him. Thereafter, with a heavy heart, Syamananda began his journey to Nilacala. I have described Syamananda's journey to Nilacala in Bhaktiratnakara. Please listen attentively as I, Narahari, narrate Narottama Vilasa.

SPELL CHECKED..

THE FIFTH VILASA

All glories to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Nityananda, Advaita and all the devotees. Please bestow your mercy upon this poor soul. All glories to the merciful listeners. Now listen attentively as I continue my narration.

When Narottama arrived at the famous village of Srikhanda in Gaura, someone spotted him approaching the house of Sarkara Thakura and rushed ahead to announce his arrival: "A very attractive man with a magnificent gait is coming this way, along with four other persons. Most likely he is coming from Nilacala." Thakura immediately understood that it was none other than Narottama. Seeing Narottama in the distance, Sri Raghunandana rushed to greet him. When the local people informed Narottama about Raghunandana, he happily fell on the ground offering obeisances as Raghunandana approached him running. Raghunandana immediately embraced Narottama. Speechless with emotion he cried uncontrollably. Gradually he managed to calm himself and quickly took Narottama to his house. There Narottama saw Sri Sarkara Thakura and fell at his feet. Though Sarkara Thakura was sunk in the ocean of sorrow due to separation from the Lord, when he saw Narottama he was overwhelmed with joy. He took Narottama in his lap and tearfully told him, "I am so happy to see you. In Mahaprabhu's absence, He will distribute love of God through you. Many fallen souls will take shelter in you, and you will spread the Lord's ecstatic message by manifesting a new type of kirtana. In this way all your desires will be fulfilled by the mercy of Lord Caitanya. Do not worry about anything. You should go to Kheturi via Yajigrama, as Srinivasa Acarya recently returned from Vanavisnupura and is eagerly waiting for you there. He is constantly thinking about you. Yesterday he came here but returned to his house on the same day." After that he asked Narottama about Sri Ksetra and Narottama vividly reported everything, which filled Sarkara Thakura with ecstatic emotions. Checking his sentiments, Thakura ordered Sri Raghunandana to take Narottama to the courtyard of Gauranga.

Upon seeing the Deity of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Narottama could not control himself and fell on the ground in a pool of tears. The priest tried to console him by offering him the garland from the Deity. Having heard of Narottama's arrival, the inhabitants of Srikhanda eagerly gathered in the courtyard of Gauranga to greet and praise Narottama. Narottama then took some maha-prasada to the house of Sri Sarkara and asked Raghunandana to offer it to Sarkara Thakura, who became ecstatic upon eating the prasada of Sri Jagannatha. He then ordered Sri Raghunandana to distribute the maha-prasada to all the devotees. Thus everyone relished the prasada, while absorbed in memories of Sri Gauranga and His pastimes in Nilacala. Thereafter they sat together and enjoyed discussions about Sri Krsna. In this way the devotees happily treasured Narottama's association and could not even think of being separated from him.

In the morning, Narottama finished his daily duties, took darsana of Sri Gauranga, and went to meet Sarkara Thakura. With deep feeling and gravity Thakura looked at Narottama and said, "How peaceful it is to look upon your face. I shall not have this opportunity a second time." Narottama could not bear this sad thought and fell at Thakura's feet crying. Sri Thakura embraced Narottama and bade him farewell. Narottama bowed to the feet of all the inhabitants of Srikhanda and began his journey. Sri Raghunandana, not wanting to leave Narottama's company, walked along with him for some distance. He then appointed one man to accompany Narottama to Yajigrama and tearfully said goodbye.

Upon reaching Yajigrama, the escort pointed to one house and said, "That is the house of Srinivasa Acarya where he teaches his students."

In the meantime someone reported to Acarya that Sri Thakura Mahasaya had come from Sri Ksetra. Srinivasa Acarya at once got up and hurried towards the door, when Narottama suddenly entered the house. Seeing each other, their hearts leapt with joy and both of them burst into tears. Narottama fell at Acarya's feet and Acarya lovingly embraced him. Who can understand the nature of such exalted personalities? Although physically two different persons, they were of such like minds that they felt as if one. When they had calmed down they sat and conversed together intently.

In the meantime, a learned brahmana, who had come from Ksetra in hopes of studying the books of the Gosvamis, arrived there. He politely submitted himself before Srinivasa, who inquired from him about events in Sri Nilacala. Heaving a heavy sigh, the brahmana said tearfully, "Nilacala has lost her jewels. Since the day that Thakura Mahasaya left a chain of miserable events has come to reign there. Practically all the associates of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu began to disappear from this world. Syamananda faced terrible miseries when he arrived there. Only due to the will of the Lord, was he able to maintain his life. Those who are still alive, consoled Syamananda and bade him farewell then he returned to his own place. I witnessed all of this with my own eyes and was unable to stay there any longer, so I started walking and didn't not stop until I reached Gaura." Saying this the brahmana began to cry, calling out the names of the departed devotees of Ksetra. Acarya Thakura, Narottama, Vyasa Cakravarti and Krsnavallabha all cried, along with him. Considerable time passed before Acarya Thakura was able to console himself and the brahmana. He then arranged accommodations for the brahmana and from that day began teaching him. Who knows what Acarya Thakura and Narottama discussed privately amongst themselves.

The next day morning, Thakura Mahasaya took his leave of Acarya Thakura. Acarya Thakura stood stone-like staring at the path which Narottama traversed, bathing himself with his own tears.

Vyasa Cakravarti and a few other devotees accompanied Narottama for some distance, until Narottama very lovingly forbade them go any further.

Narottama eventually arrived at Kantakanagara, the place of Sri Kesava Bharati. Who can describe Narottama's condition upon seeing Dasa Gadadhara's Deity of Sri Gauranga there. Sri Yadunandana Cakravarti, the disciple of Sri Gadadhara and a scholar of all scriptures, became excited when he saw Narottama and hurried out of the temple to greet him. He offered the Lord's garland to Narottama and embraced him warmly with tears in his eyes. In a chocked voice he told Narottama, "It is so wonderful that you have finally come here. Prabhu Gadadhara has been impatiently waiting for you for a long time. Again and again he has asked me, 'Go see whether Narottama has come yet.' Oh my dear brother, what can I say ? The ocean of misery is extremely turbulent here. After the demise of Sri Visnupriya Isvari, my Prabhu returned from Navadvipa and has been spending his days alone here. Lost in an ocean of misery, he is unable to eat and has become completely emaciated."

Saying this he took Narottama to Dasa Gadadhara who was sitting alone with dust all over his body. His closed eyes continuously shed tears. Merged in thoughts of Sri Gaurahari, he sighed heavily and repeatedly uttered, "Hari, Hari." At an opportune moment, Yadunandana said quietly, "Narottama has come from Ksetra."

As soon as the name of Narottama entered his ears, Sri Gadadhara opened his eyes cried loudly. With outstretched hands, he embraced Narottama soaking him with his tears. Narottama touched the feet of Gadadhara and reported everything to him about his recent travels. Blessing Narottama, Sri Gadadhara said, "All your desires will be fulfilled. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu will definitely dance along with your kirtana. Now you should go to Kheturi and distribute love of God to the people there."

Sri Yadunandana then took Narottama to another dwelling place and said, "See, this is the place where Sri Kesava Bharati lived. And here is the place where Prabhu cut His hair and took sannyasa from Bharati." At this point they broke into tears and Narottama fell unconscious on the ground. A long time passed before they were able to enter into the temple and observe the beautiful Deity of Gauracandra. Narottama stayed there for the day and the following morning, thinking of the lotus feet of Sri Nityananda Balarama, he started for Ekacakra village in Radha.

At the entrance of the village Nityananda, in the guise of an old brahmana, asked Narottama, "What is your name and from where are you coming? Where will you go and for what purpose?" Narottama replied, "I am Narottama, coming from Ksetra. I have come to the birth place of Nityananda, whose parents were Padmavati and Hadai Pandita, because I want to see the sacred places where

Sri Nityananda Prabhu performed his pastimes. I live on the other side of the Padmavati in Sri Kheturi, from here I shall return there." Hearing Narottama's sweet words, the old brahmana smiled and without disclosing anything said, "I know everything. Come along with me, I shall show you all."

The brahmana guided Narottama to a particular spot and said, "See, this is the place where Nityananda and His friends enjoyed grazing cattle like the Gopas. Nityananda roamed about in this area holding His club and plow. And this is the place where He performed Ramalila. As Balarama performed His pastimes in Svetadvipa, similarly Nityananda performed His pastimes here. Now let me show you the house of Hadai Pandita where Nityananda Raya took birth. Here is the spot where He held a snake. See, over here, this is where His Gurukarana ceremony was performed. Now look at this temple of Visnu where He used to worship the Lord. This is where that sannyasi came and ate and afterwards begged Nityananda from his father. This is the road by which the sannyasi and Nityananda left, followed by all the inhabitants of this village. In this spot Nityananda's mother loudly lamented for her son, and over here Hadai Pandita rolled on the ground in anguish at losing his son. Here Padmavati devi laid unconscious and Hadai Pandita consoled her. Oh Narottama, mind these places which I am showing you are beyond the grasp of even the demigods. In this Ekacakra village, Nityananda Raya still performs His pastimes and only the fortunate can see." Saying this much, the brahmana vanished.

The sudden disappearance of the old brahmana bewildered Narottama. "What is this," he thought, "one moment he was here and then he vanished like a bolt from the blue." Narottama became extremely restless and thought, "If I cannot see him anymore, I shall commit suicide by entering into fire." Saying this Narottama began to lament pitifully. Nityananda, Haladhara who is an ocean of mercy, again appeared before Narottama in the guise of the old brahmana. This time, the brahmana suddenly turned into Balarama, carrying his club and plow, wearing a topknot on his head and dressed in beautiful garments. Then suddenly Balarama turned into Nityananda. Smilingly he said to Narottama, "You are my favorite, I have no intention to deceive you. Very soon all your desires will be fulfilled. But don't disclose to anyone that you have seen Me here." Saying this He disappeared. Narottama stood transfixed like a statue, unable to move or speak. He stayed that day at Ekacakra and the following morning, while glorifying Nityananda Prabhu, King of Ekacakra, the son of Rohini and the life of the most fallen souls, Narottama began his journey. Crossing over the Padmavati river he headed towards Kheturi. Listen attentively as I, Narahari, narrated this Narottama Vilasa.

SPELL CHECKED..

THE SIXTH VILASA

All glories to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Nityananda Prabhu, Advaita Acarya and all the devotees. Please bestow your benedictions upon this fallen soul. All glories to the merciful listeners. Now hear attentively as I continue this narration.

At an auspicious time, Narottama crossed the Padmavati and entered Sri Kheturi. People from every corner of the village happily flocked to see him. Sri Santosa Datta and others greeted Sri Thakura Mahasaya and arranged accommodations for him in a solitary house. Nevertheless, the house was packed until the evening with enthusiastic villagers eager for his darsana.

In the evening when Narottama was finally alone, he began to think deeply about his devotional service to Sri Krsna. Eventually, by the Lord's arrangement, he finally fell asleep late in the evening. In a dream the son of Saci told him, "Oh Narottama, in the hope of your coming here, I hid Myself in the form of a metal Deity in the house of an influential landlord. Everyone knows him because he is a rich man with many rice-go-downs, but no one will approach these go-downs because they are full of poisonous snakes. In one of the bigger go-downs I have concealed Myself. Quickly go and open the door of that go-down and bring Me to your house." He then advised Narottama to have more Deities made and then vanished after embracing him.

Narottama excitedly woke to find that it was still dark. He spent the rest of the night performing sankirtana and in the morning quickly completed his daily duties. He then asked various persons if they knew of a rich man who had many rice go-downs which were infested with snakes. Everyone knew the man, and Narottama requested them to take him there. Thus Narottama, along with a few others, went to the rich man's house, who was greatly surprised and happy to receive them. Sri Thakura Mahasaya immediately proceeded straight towards the rice go-down. The rich man was horrified, falling at Narottama's feet he begged with folded hands, "Everyone knows that these go-downs are infested with snakes. Many snake tamers have tried to clear them out but their attempts were in vain. Long ago I gave up hope of getting rid of the snakes and, although I lost considerable money, I was forced to close the buildings down. I could not possibly allow you to go inside. Please tell me, what I can do for you?"

Thakura Mahasaya simply laughed and said, "Don't be nervous, I shall clear it out now. I have very important business to attend to within your go-down. Afterwards you will be relieved and happy to see what I will bring out from inside." Saying this, Thakura Mahasaya undauntedly walked towards the go-down, as the spectators trembled in fear. But when the snakes saw Thakura Mahasaya, they immediately left the go-down and went away. In a trance of love, Narottama opened the door and found Navadvipa Candra with His

consort. Their bodies were fully decorated with ornaments and Their brilliant beauty was beyond compare. When Narottama picked Them up and lovingly clasped Them to his heart, he was suddenly jolted as if struck by a bolt of lightening.

Everyone was spellbound to see the Deities and began shouting with joy. Someone remarked, "It is not possible for an ordinary human being to do such a thing." Someone else said, "Who can understand him? Because of his presence our village has become blessed." Another person commented, "If we are fortunate enough, perhaps we can receive his blessings." All of them danced happily, calling out the name of Narottama.

As Narottama carried the Deities, a huge crowd followed along behind him. Upon reaching his house, he placed Sri Gauranga and His consort on a beautiful celestial seat. With unblinking eyes he stared at the Lord crying incessantly. Suddenly he became deeply inspired and spontaneously began to sing for the first time, an exquisitely beautiful kirtana which he had previously written describing the glories of Sri Gauracandra. Narottama's singing and dancing was so charming and graceful that the Gandharvas were put to shame. Even the most fallen Yavanas and atheists became mad with ecstasy upon hearing his kirtana and also began to chant the glories of Gauranga's pastimes. Thus the sound of kirtana covered the entire world and the demigods showered flowers from the heavens. Gandharvas and Kinnaras remarked with amazement, "Who is that extraordinary person who has suddenly manifested this most sublime and beautiful kirtana? Even we are not familiar with this type of singing. Some of the devotees of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu have an extraordinary power to perform kirtana in such a way that the entire universe becomes overwhelmed. All the devotee of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu are worshipable by even the demigods and goddesses." Saying this, they accepting the guise of human beings, came before Narottama and fell at his feet. Thus from that very special day the super-excellent kirtana of Sri Narottama dasa Thakura was inaugurated. On that same day Balarama Vipra and others happily took initiation from Sri Thakura Mahasaya.

With a satisfied heart, Sri Thakura Mahasaya began to serve Gauracandra and Laksmi Visnupriya. He appointed Balarama Vipra and others to take charge of the Deities service. As ordered in a dream, he also installed five more Deities.

After this he began to feel anxious about not having heard from Srinivasa Acarya for so long. He wanted to find out some news, but thought, "Without his permission, how can I send anyone to see him? Yet no one has come from Yajigrama in such a long time. Now, I am at a loss as to what to do." Just as he was thinking in this way a man suddenly arrived from Yajigrama. With great relief Thakura Mahasaya eagerly inquired about events there. The devotee replied, "Everything is fine there, but Acarya Thakura is always thinking of you and missing your association. He

regularly visits Sri Khanda and Kantakanagara, and has also gone to Navadvipa. One day when he was in Khanda, Sri Sarkara Thakura spoke with him and again requested that he marry. This time he could not disobey Thakura. Thus he married and settled at Yajigrama, where many scholars and learned persons regularly visit. Now Ramacandra, a learned son of Sri Ciranjiva Sena of Khanda, has become the disciple of Acarya, and many others have also accepted initiation from him.

He has also successfully distributed all of the books of the Gosvamis. He sent a message to Sri Vrndavana, and one man brought a reply along with more books written by Sri Jiva Gosvami. Acarya has already distributed these new books everywhere.

Recently Srinivasa received a letter from Navadvipa, carrying devastating news. Many of the Lord's associates from Santipura and the surrounding areas, who were suffering intensely in the fire of separation, have now left this world. Hearing about the demise of Sri Sarkara Thakura and Sri Dasa Gadadhara, Srinivasa Acarya sank deep in the ocean of despair. I cannot describe his state of mind. Sometimes we were afraid for of his life. One day being unable to bear the pain of separation, he left for Vrndavana without telling anyone.

The Gosvamis were overjoyed to have Srinivasa's company. They happily sat him down and inquired about his well-being and listened intently to the full account of carrying the manuscripts to Gaura. In this way they happily spent four or five days together.

Around that time, Sri Ramacandra Sena came there to meet Srinivasa Acarya. When the Gosvamis were informed of Ramacandra's scholarly capabilities, they conferred upon him the title of "Kaviraja." The Gosvamis eagerly listened as Ramacandra gave a full account of Srinivasa Acarya's marriage.

Thereafter Sri Jiva Gosvami and the others gladly handed over more books to Srinivasa Acarya, appointed four Vrajavasis to accompany him, and bade him farewell. Sri Gopala Bhatta, Lokanatha, and everyone there was extremely sad to see him leave. Srinivasa quickly returned to Gaura and then went to Visnupura to relieve the king. I heard that he would be coming soon to Yajigrama, so I immediately came here to inform you."

During the course of this conversation, two messengers suddenly arrived with another letter for Narottama from Sri Acarya and Narottama happily read aloud, "I left my house, along with my followers, and went to Kancanagaria where I initiated two devotees, who are the bearers of this letter. These two brothers, Sridasa and Gokulananda, are the sons of Dvija Haridasa, a prominent follower of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Being ordered by their father, they accepted initiation from Me." Yesterday I left Kancanagaria and started for Vudhuri."

Reading this, Narottama exclaimed, "Oh what a wonderful morning for me," and happily escorted the two messengers to the temple of Sri Gaura. There he introduced them to Balarama Pujari, who gladly brought them maha-prasada.

Thakura Mahasaya then went to inspect whether all the preparations for the forthcoming festival were ready or not. He was happy to find that all the go-downs were full of commodities. He then engaged various persons to specific assignments for further preparations. The next morning he left, along with Devidasa, Gokula and Gauranga and started for Vudhuri.

When Narottama reached Vudhuri someone rushed ahead and announced his arrival to Sri Acarya, who happily hurried out of the house and found Narottama standing there. Narottama fell at his feet, and Sri Acarya Thakura embraced him warmly. He then introduced Narottama to Ramacandra and the other devotees.

Sitting in a quiet place they discussed many topics; Srinivasa explained how he had met Ramacandra and initiated him, how his marriage had occurred, how Ramacandra received the title "Kaviraja," his journey from Yajigrama to Vudhuri and how he conferred the title of "Kaviraja" upon Govinda. He then inquired about Narottama's well being, and Narottama gradually explained how Sri Santosa Raya and others had became his disciples, how he rescued the Deity of Sri Gaurahari and arranged to have five more Deities carved. how he was making preparations for the forthcoming great festival. Narottama said, "As soon as I received your letter, I decided to hold the festival on the full-moon day of Falguna." Thereafter they sat together and compiled a list of devotees to invite to the festival and immediately sent out the invitation letter to all the devotees of Sri Gaurangamandala. Narottama also wrote a letter inviting Syamananda from Utkala. Sri Acarya and Narottama then sat together discussing privately. Later, Sri Acarya put Ramacandra under the care of Narottama.

Within a few days, news of Sri Acarya, Narottama and Ramacandra spread like wildfire. In every corner people were speaking about them: "They have mercifully appeared in this world to save the fallen souls from this hellish material existence." Another person said, "Although three separate persons, they are so deeply united that they appear to be one."

After four days had passed Sri Acarya permitted Narottama to return to Kheturi and instructed Ramacandra and others to accompany him. Upon arriving in Kheturi they immediately went for darsana of Sri Gauranga. There they happily met the disciples of Thakura Mahasaya, who were all abodes of transcendental qualities. Thereafter they inquired about the preparations for the festival and were pleased to find an enormous collection of the necessary

commodities. Sri Thakura Mahasaya arranged separate private houses for Ramacandra and the others, where they all waited anxiously for the arrival of Sri Acarya.

Shortly thereafter, when Sri Acarya Thakura, along with Govinda and other devotees, arrived in Kheturi, a wonderful scene ensued as all the Vaisnavas ran out to greet them. They happily escorted Sri Acarya to a beautiful house and then took him for darsana of Sri Gauranga. Upon seeing the Deity along with His consort, Laksmi-Visnupriya, Acarya was filled with ecstatic love. He then saw the other five Deities and was equally overjoyed to see each one. Sri Acarya then inspected the go-downs, but his mind was constantly distracted by thoughts of Sri Syamananda prabhu. As he was thinking in this way, someone suddenly announced that Syamananda had just arrived from Utkala.

Hearing this, Acarya and his men dashed to welcome him. When Syamananda and his companions entered the house of Sri Acarya, Syamananda could not check his emotions. They embraced, soaking each other with their tears. Acarya then asked about Syamananda's well being. The same emotional scene occurred when Narottama arrived there. Sri Thakura Mahasaya then introduced Syamananda to all the Vaisnavas, and Sri Syamananda in turn introduced Rasikananda and his other devotees. Sridasa, Gokulananda, Vyasa Cakravarti, Ramacandra and Govinda Kaviraja were extremely happy to meet Cattaraja, Ramakrsna, Kumuda and the others. Narottama then took Ramacandra and Syamananda to a beautiful house and said to Rasikananda affectionately, "My dear, Rasikananda, try to manage everything smoothly and peacefully. Be very careful to look after the guests so they do not experience any inconvenience." Rasikananda listened humbly with folded hands and remained quiet. His humility charmed the heart of Narottama.

Thakura Mahasaya and Ramacandra returned to Sri Acarya's place and sent Sri Govinda Kaviraja to take Syamananda to the temple of Sri Gaurasundara. Syamananda was ecstatic to see the beautiful form of the Lord and requested to see the other five Deities. Govinda also showed Syamananda the store rooms. Sri Rasikananda, Purusottama, Sri Kisora and other devotees had brought many items from home to contribute for the festival. Thus their gifts were added to the huge stock. In this way the commodities increased and the store-rooms bulged with goods. Syamananda then went to Sri Acarya's place and together they relished discussions about Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. In this way that wonderful day came to a close.

In the morning everyone completed their daily duties and began to wonder why Sri Jahnava Devi had not arrived in Kheturi yet. As they were thinking in this way, a brahmana arrived and reported that Sri Jahnava Isvari had just crossed the River Padmaavati. Everyone happily scrambled towards the bank of the river to greet Sri Isvari. The news rapidly spread and people came running from all directions. After bowing to her feet, Acarya asked about her

well-being. She replied, "Upon receiving your letter we were all extremely anxious to come to Kheturi at once."

At that time when Jahnava had received the invitation to Kheturi, Krsnadasa Atyudara, the elder brother of Suryadasa Sarkhela, was also present there. Hearing about the forthcoming festival, Srila Raghupati Upadhyaya, Murari, Caitanya, Jnanadasa, Manohara, Kamalakara Piplai, Sri Jiva Pandita, Madhava Acarya, Nrsimha Caitanya Dasa, Kanai, Sankara, Sri Gaurangadasa, Vrndavana, Sri Minaketana, Ramadasa, Nakari, Sri Balarama and others, bowed to the feet of the two Isvaris and humbly said, "We would also like to go to Kheturi." Hearing this Sri Jahnava happily requested Sri Paramesvara dasa to begin preparations for their journey immediately. On the day of Sri Isvari's departure, many Vaisnavas from distant places came to see Sri Isvari and when they came to know about the festival, they also were eager to go along with her. They enthusiastically rushed back to their houses and began preparing for the journey. For this reason the entire party was held up for some time. At the time of their departure they suddenly heard a deep voice speaking to them from the sky saying, "Srinivasa and Narottama are extremely dear to Me and are empowered by Me to distribute divine love. I am completely bound by their love. In Kheturi you will all see Me dance in the sankirtana along with My companions. The power of My love will drive the three worlds mad and no one will escape. Your journey will certainly be a great success. Everyone is eagerly waiting for you. From Kheturi, you should go to Vrndavana, and when you return from Vrndavana you should distribute pure devotional love to everyone."

Upon hearing this voice, Sri Isvari wept with joy, and all the great personalities assembled there were overcome with happiness. Sri Jahnava consoled Srivasu devi, Ganga and Viracandra and, chanting the holy names of Gaura Nityananda, she and her party began their journey by boat to Kheturi. Meanwhile, news of Sri Isvari's future trip to Vraja via Kheturi spread everywhere.

After some distance, they stopped the boat and Sri Isvari visited the house of a fortunate merchant who was always absorbed in the glories of Nityananda Prabhu. His love overflowed to have Isvari in his house. Favoring them, Sri Isvari decided to take rest for the day in his house. Raghunatha Khaja, son of Bhagavan and favorite disciple of Jagadisa Pandita, came to meet Isvari at that time.

Early the next morning they started for Amvika, where Sri Hrdya Caitanya greeted Sri Isvari. Seeing the Deities there of Nitai Caitanyacandra, she was filled with ecstatic emotions, and thereafter she, and her companions, took prasada. Sri Jahnava reported everything to Hrdya Caitanya who also decided to go to Kheturi. In the meantime, Sri Caitanyadasa, son of Sri Vansivadana, came to meet Sri Isvari and also decided to go to Kheturi. At that time one man came from Santipura and reported that Sri Acyutananda,

son of Advaita Prabhu, was practically dead due to the unbearable misery of separation from the Lord. His mother, Sri Sita, ordered him to go to Kheturi and thus they planned to start in the morning. Hearing this, Sri Isvari became so happy that she immediately instructed him to tell Acyutananda that he should travel along with her party. Sri Isvari and her companions happily spent that night in the house of Hrdaya Caitanya Pandita. In the morning she observed Srimangala Arati and dedicated herself to the feet of Nitai Caitanya. She then started for Navadvipa.

Reaching the outskirts of Navadvipa, she began to weep thinking of the wonderful pastimes of the Lord. When the favorite associates of Caitanya Mahaprabhu who were still alive in Navadvipa heard that Sri Jahnava had come to their place, they all rushed happily to meet her. As she got down from the palanquin all the Vaisnavas of Navadvipa bowed to her feet, and she introduced her companions to the Navadvipa devotees. How can that glorious meeting be described? Many of the devotees were bowing at each others feet, while others embraced one another, and still others began to loudly sing the glories to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. A long time passed before they were capable of checking their ecstatic loving feelings.

Eventually Pandita Sripati, brother of Srivasa Pandita, suggested to Sri Madhava Acarya and others, "I think we should take bath here in the Ganges." Everyone was delighted by the proposal and rushed to take their bath. Meanwhile, Sripati quickly went to Navadvipa and returned with many items. Sri Jahnava Isvari cheerfully fed them and afterwards took something herself.

The party then entered into Navadvipa and went to the house of Srivasa. Advaita Prabhu's son, Sri Gopala, brother of Acyuta, Sri Kanu Pandita, Visnudasa Mahasaya, Vanamali dasa and other great Vaisnavas came to greet them. Everyone was jubilant to meet one another. Srimati Isvari privately spoke to Acyutananda, explaining about the festival. Delighted, he immediately announced to his followers about the up-coming Kheturi festival. Quickly the news spread throughout Navadvipa and everyone was eager to attend the festival. Afterwards they all met in the house of Srivasa and took their meals. Meanwhile people from all over Navadvipa came running to see the meeting of the Vaisnavas. A long time passed joyfully in this way until eventually the devotees went to bed.

Early in the morning they resumed their journey. Upon arriving in Akaihata, they went to the house of Krsnadasa, the great singer, who quickly arranged food for them. He also prepared himself for going to Kheturi.

The next morning they again traveled on until they reached Kantakanagara. Krsnadasa Thakura was the first to be informed of their arrival and immediately came forward to greet them and brought them to his house. Very shortly thereafter, Sri

Raghunandana and his companions arrived there, then Vaninath and Sivananda came along with others. Vallabha, Caitanya dasa, Bhagavataacarya, Nartaka (dancer) Gopala, Jita Misra, Raghu Misra, Kasinath Pandita, Uddhava, Sri Nayanananda Misra and other favorite followers of Caitanya Mahaprabhu also came there. Everyone was to overjoyed to meet one another and overwhelmed upon seeing the beauty of Sri Gauranga and dasa Gadadhara. Afterwards they tearfully went to see the place where the Lord accepted sannyasa. A long time passed before they were able to calm themselves, eventually they went to take bath in the Ganges.

Meanwhile Sri Yadunandana collected many varieties of sweet for them and after offering them to Sri Gaurangacandra, placed separate plates of sweets in separate rooms. After coming back from the Ganges they very gladly took maha-prasada. On that day, Sri Jahnava Isvari in a happy mood went to cook for the devotees. She cooked various items and then offered them to Sri Gaurangacandra, who very happily accepted them. After sometime, she affectionately distributed prasada to all the devotees. Everyone delightedly relished the prasada which tasted like nectar. Afterwards Sri Isvari took some prasada. After her, Sri Yadunandana and others ate.

Yadunandana, being extremely moved by remembrance of his spiritual master, dasa Gadadhara, began preparing for the trip to Kheturi. He carefully instructed the priest of the temple to be attentive to the service of Sri Gauranga. By the evening all the preparations were complete.

In the meantime, all the mahantas gathered in the courtyard of Sri Gauranga. After observing Sri Gauranga's arati ceremony, they started sankirtana. In this way most of the night passed in glorification of Krsna. Late at night they took a short nap. In the morning, after offering their obeisances at the feet of Gauracandra, they started out for Kheturi and very soon they crossed the River Padmaavati. Sri Isvari sent a messenger to inform Acarya Thakura of their arrival. Excited and happy, Sri Acarya, Sri Thakura Mahasaya and Syamananda all stood together, shining as brilliantly as the sun, expectantly staring at the path waiting for her arrival. Seeing these three exalted souls waiting on the path, Sri Isvari could not contain her emotions and got down from her palanquin, while Srinivasa and others ran to her and fell at her feet. Srinivasa and the other devotees then bowed to the feet of Sri Acyutananda and the rest of the devotees. Everyone was, overwhelmed with intense loving sentiments; Someone held on to Srinivasa crying, and someone else embraced Narottama, another devotee could not let Ramacandra out of his embrace, while another person soaked Sri Gokulananda with his tears. One devotee stretched out his arms to greet Sridasa, and another affectionately embraced Syamananda and Govinda Kaviraja.

When the party entered into Kheturi proper, the entire village was submerged in an ocean of happiness. With great care Acarya

Thakura escorted the devotees to separate houses and appointed Ramacandra Kaviraja to the service of Raghunatha Acarya and his associates. He appointed Syamananda to the service of Sri Hrdaya Caitanya. Sri Nrsimha Kaviraja was appointed to serve Sri Caitanyadasa and some others, and Sri Vyasa Acarya took care of Sripati, Srinidhi Pandita and their associates. He asked Sri Vallabhi Kanta to serve Krsnadasa and other devotees from Akaihata, and Sri Govinda Kaviraja took charge of serving Sri Raghunandana and his companions. Ramakrsna, Kumuda and their associates were requested to look after Vaninatha, Jita Misra and others. Kaviraja Bhagavan was put in the service of Sri Yadunandana Cakravarti, and Sri Gopiramana and others were appointed the service of the other Vaisnavas. Srinivasa arranged separate stocks of food for separate houses, and Sri Acarya Thakura and Thakura Mahasaya oversaw everything to assure that all was executed properly. Simply hearing about the arrival of all these great mahantas in Kheturi can fulfill all the desires of the listeners. So hear attentively as I, Narahari, narrate this Narottama Vilasa.

SPELL CHECKED..

THE SEVENTH VILASA

All glories to Sri Caitanya, Nityananda Prabhu, Advaita Acarya and all the associates of the Lord. Please bestow your mercy upon this fallen soul. All glories to the merciful listeners. Kindly listen attentively to this narration.

As news of the Kheturi festival spread throughout the country, everywhere people were heard speaking about it: "Oh brother, Sri Khetari has become beautified by the association of the devotees, It is now the most fortunate village on the earth and is the abode of eternal joy." Everyone in Sri Kheturi; men, women, aged and even the children could not check their tears upon seeing the assembly of devotees. Someone said, "many more Vaisnavas have arrived today, they look as effulgent as the shining like the sun." Another person commented, "By the power of these Vaisnavas even the atheistic offenders feel compelled to utter the name of Krsna." Someone else remarked, "Sri Santosa is certainly the most fortunate King, just see how carefully he has arranged accommodations for them." Others said, "The King is very attentive to the well-being of all mankind." Some said, "He has ordered the instrumentalists to begin playing on the Sukla Pancami day of Falguna." "He has ordered the flowermen to make beautiful flower garlands. EDITED TO HERE He has ordered some persons to prepare sandalpaste." Some said, "The king has gathered all the kings for the Abhiseka ceremony. Tomorrow is the full moon day and a very auspicious one. Tomorrow the idols will be installed in the temple." Some said, "Instead of everything, we should go to Khetari." Some said, "Thakur Mahasaya has gratified this country. The people here are all wicked robbers. They do not know what is religion and what is the result of doing wicked deeds. They used to sever the heads of goats, lambs and buffalos whose blood they used to throw to the doors of dwellers." Some said, "They used to dance with the heads of men fixed on the top of their swords. If anyone even if he is a brahmana used to pass by them at that time, they do not exempt him. They do not live without illegal company of the women and taking liquors. Oh my brother, I am cock-sure that Narottama will only save them from damnation." Saying such things, they began to sing the glory of Narottama. They with various kinds of commodities, came soon to the village of Khetari. In this way, many persons came from distant villages and as soon as they entered into Khetari, they used to forget all their agonies. Here Sri Thakur Mahasaya calmed down all their agonies by sweet pacifying words. In the evening, someone told Acarya, "Many kholas and kartalas have been made and they have been stockpiled here. Please, kindly come and inspect them." Sri Acarya gladly with Gauranga, Gokula and Devidasa, went to inspect those instruments and at once started worshipping them in the names of Gaura Nityananda. Then they went to meet Sri Isvari and reported her about the Abhiseka ceremony. In the morning, when all the mahantas finished their

daily morning duties, Sri Acarya and Sri Thakur Mahasaya came to them with beautiful new clothes. They offered those clothes to them and requested them to wear the clothes. Here Sri Santosa Raya was delightfully looking at the beautiful canopy which had increased the charm of the festival courtyard. Many seats were arranged under the canopy where all the mahantas came to sit. A private seat was made for Sri Janhava. Bananna tree were place in different places. Earthen jars full of water with coconuts and twigs of mango on the top of them were placed everywhere. Acarya told the mahantas that all preparations had been completed. Then he went to Sri Isvari to tell her about the completion of the arrangements. So she came to take her private seat. Now the whole scene on the courtyard became a pleasing one. All the mahantas began to chat mildly. Then they all permistted Acarya to start the Abhiseka ceremony of the idols. So Acarya brought the idols in the temple and again became overwhelmed to observe the beauty of Navadvipa Candra with Lakshmi-Visnupriya. Following the rituals directed the ceremony. Now the names of the idols which Prabhu had told in the dream of Acarya, became clear. The names were Gauranga, Vallabhikanta, Sri Vraja Mohana, Sri Krsna, Sri Radhakanta and Radharamana. Now they were placed on separate thrones, bedecked with different kind of jwelleries. With a satisfied heart, Acarya completed the rituals and then started the ceremony of waving lights before the idols. He offered food separately. The prabhus most gladly accepted those foods. Then Acarya took away the food containers very carefully and washed the place. After that he fffered flower garlands and sandalpaste to the prabhus. Then he offered garlands and sandalpaste separately to al the mahantas. Observing the six idols, all of them cheered in the nannmes of the Prabhus. Al types of instruments were started to be playing. Here everyone permitted Sri Thakur Mahasaya to start sankirtana. Being very happy Thakur Mahasaya instructed Devidasa to prepare the musical instruments. Devidasa, Gauranga, VAllabha Gauranga, Gokula and others gladly came to the courtyard with the other singers and instrumentalists. Along with them, Sri Tahkur Mahasaya stood in the middle of the courtyard in a shining spirit. His body was trembling with emotion, his mose of talking was very beautiful. His complexion could put the golden ketaki flower to shame. His pointed nose and lotus eyes were very magnetic. His beautiful face could easily defeat Kandarpa (Kartikeya, son of goddess Durga). His long hands could defeat the pride of an elephants's trunk. Who could not but be glad to see his broad chest? How beautiful was the sectarian mark on his beautiful forehead. The tulasibead round his neck was shinning brightly. How magnificent were his legs, feet and knees which could at once cool one's disturbed eye. With the magnetic beauty, he stared sankirtana. While thinking the feet of Nitai, Advaita, Goracandra and their associates, Narottama could not check his feelings of love. He lay prostrate on the ground to respect the feet of the mahantas. He started the first part of the kirtana very mildly with the help of kartala. With his smiling, his beautiful teeth could be seen. In Sri Stavamrtalaharyam, it is written: "I worship

Srila Narottama, who is smiling gladly in sankirtana during which whose shinning teeth are brightening the all three worlds, whose body is bathing in the tears born from the love of sankirtana." He had already empowered Devidasa and others. Now by his indication, all of them became mad in singing and playing the instruments. The joint sound of mrdanga and kartala moved Sri Raghunandana so much that he began to shout like a mad lion taking the name of Gauranga. Acarya gave him garland and sandalpaste and Sri Raghunandana by his own hands smeared sandalpaste and put the garlands on the khola and kartala. Forgetting his own entity, Sri Raghunandana, smeared sandalpaste on the body of Narottama by his own hands. Then he tightly embraced Narottama. He gave garlands and sandalpaste to everyone of the kirtana troupe in the same manner. They bowed to the feet of Raghunandana. Sri Gauranga dasa started Talapata of kirtana with mild stroke of the instruments which began to rise loudly rhythmically just like a sprout of nectar used to come out gradually. On hearing the unheard nectar like music, all the Gandharvas and the Kinnars used to peep through the sky and began to shower flowers on the singers. They merged themselves with the human spectators and began to enjoy the divine pleasure. Here, all the mahantas began to say, "What a wonderful creation of Prabhu in the shape of Narottama. We have not heard such a music full of love. Narottama's voice is superb just like the showers of nectar. He who once drinks that nectar, his thirst for it used to increase all the time. How wonderful postures he is giving with his singing. The Gandharvas and the Kinnaras are no match to him. We think for this reason Sri Nadvipa Candra, son of Saci had attracted him at that time. Being bound by the love of Narottama, Prabhu has deposited the store of divine music on Narottama." Saying so, they got up and embraced Narottama and then began to dance madly. Being moved by the love of Narottama, Sri Gaura Raya with his companions Nityananda, Advaita, Srivasa, Gadadhara, Murari, Svarupa, Haridasa, Vakresvara, Jagadisa, Gaurdasa and others appeared before the eyes of the whole audience. All of them forgot their own entities for the time being. The son of Saci began to dance with Sri ACyutananda and others. Sri Nityananda Prabhu danced with his favorite Narottama. Prabhu Sri Advaita began to dance with Syamananda, Ramacandra and others. Pandita Gadadhara danced by Srinivasa. Like them also danced Srivasa Pandita, Sri Gupta Murari, Sri Svarupa, Haridasa, Sri Pandita brahmacari, Suklamvara, Vasudeva Datta, Sri Pandita Vakresvara, Gadadhara dasa, Sri Mukunda, Narahari, Gauridasa Pandita, Nakula brahmacari, Jagadisa, Suryadasa, Srinatha, Mahesa, Yadu, Sri Madhusudana, Govinda, Madhava Vasu, Raya Ramananda, Sri Vijaya, Dhananjaya Datta, Sri Mukunda, Sanatana, Rupa, Raghunatha, Kasisvara. The strokes of their shook the earth. VISIBLES and invisibles became merged into one. What a wonderful dancing that everyone forgot his entity. By the intoxicating sound of the instruments, all of them began to roar with loud clapping. By drinking the nectar of the songs, who could control himself? Nadvipa Candra by his glance began to shower rains of nectar. People began to cry out in the name of Sri Krsna Caitanya. What

Prabhu had assured Narottama in his dream, now he manifested that by himself. Who can understand the transcendental activities of Prabhu? He then vanished in the same manner he had appeared in the sankirtana. With him all his associates also vanished. Those who were physically still present there, began to lament for this disappearance of Prabhu. They began to cry loudly by taking the names of Gaura Nityananda, Advaita, and others. Sri Janhava Isvari could not stop her crying. The same thing happened to Sri Acyutananda and others. Srinivasa, Narottama fell on the ground. On hearing their crying even the wood and stone began to melt. Ramacandra, Syamananda and others also began to cry miserably. Their crying created a stream of a river on the earth. The heretics who had come to see the fun, also became mad in crying. Vaninath and some others had been unconscious for a long time. When they got back their sense, they found that Srinivasa, Narottama, Ramacandra, Sri Gokulananda, Sridasa, Sri Syamananda, Gokula, Govinda, Sri Rasikananda, Devidasa and many other had been lying still unconscious on the ground. By the efforts of all the mahantas, they got back their senses but again began to lament. Sri Janhava Isvari then called Srinivasa and Narottama privately and told them, "My heart is breaking by your lamentations but my dears, check yourself and remember the order of Prabhu. This is the right time to begin the sport of throwing red powder dust to the deities." Suddenly the two prabhus remembered everything and became very glad. After bowing to the feet of Sri Janhava Isvari, they went to tell the mahantas about the ceremony. They told Sri Acyutananda and others, "Nityananda, Advaita, Gaura and all his associates are always bound by your devotion and love. You are the eternal servants of Prabhu. He is always residing before eyes. The happiness what you all gave us by your kirtana will be evergreen in our memory." Saying so Acarya and Thakura Mahasaya embraced all of them. Then Srinivasa and Narottama worshipped the feet of the mahantas. Srinivasa Acarya and Thakura Mahasaya told the mahantas, "After offering red powder dust to the body of Prabhu, let us perform the sport of smearing red powder dust." Everyone became glad to hear this. In the meantime, Sri Santosa brought scented red powder dust of different color and varieties. He put them in separate bowls. Sri Thakur Mahasaya with the help of Ramacandra put the bowls of powder dust before Sri Isvari who went inside the temple. After offering powder dust to the body of Prabhu, she came back to her seat but could not control her tears after seeing the beauty of Prabhu. Here Sri Acyut Radhunandana, Srinidhi, Vaninatha, Hrdya Caitanya, Yadu and others took powder dust to offer it on the body of Prabhu. Some of them smeared it on the bodies of Radhakanta and Sri Valabhikanta and began to narrate the sport of Vraja. Someone smeared it on the body of Sri Radharamana and became mesmerized by His beauty. After that, they began to smear powder dust to one another. Being jubilant, some one began to recite poems on Holi Yatra, someone began to sing songs on Navadvipa-Vrndavana sports, someone began to dance. Someone began to chase someone with powder dust in his hand. Their childish behavior showed that they had forgotten their own entities.

Millions of people began to play with powder dust. For this reason, the sky became covered with colored powder dust. The way by which the gods and human beings became amalgamated in this sport, is beyond any description in this world. They played up to the evening. When the evening ceremony of waving light before Prabhu began, they became absorbed in nama sankirtana. After it was over, the mahantas again took their seats in the courtyard and began to sing the gloryfying episode of the birth of Prabhu. In this way, they spent th enight. In the morning, they did their morning duties. Sri Janhava Devi in the early morning after finishing her daily duties, took bath in hot water and then did her Anhika (citing hymns silently). After that she entered into the kitchen with SRinivasa. On inspecting the things already stocked there for her cooking. She told Srinivasa with a smile, "I think that I should order you to bring various thing for my cooking and thus I have brought you here. But you have already arranged everything here very quickly. How can you know that for my cooking, I need these things"? Saying so, she took her seat and started her cooking very carefully. On seeing the efficiency of ehr attendant, she began to praise him to everybody. The cooking method of Sri Isvari was a transcendental one. Who will be able to describe this? She cooked various items very quickly. She decorated separate plates with rice and other items very nicely. Then offered them to the Prabhus who at once started to eat and began to certify the nectar like taste of the items. While observing this fun, Sri Isvari could not check her tears of joy. But to maintain the custom, she quickly came of the temple after closing the door. After the fun of eating was over, for the sake of custom, she again entered into the temple by opening the door and took out the food from the temple. She offered water for washing mouth and betel leaves. Now all the mahantas were ready to take food after finishing their baths. Acarya came to them with the food bowls and began to serve them. All of them delightfully ate prasadam. Acarya Thakur informed them about the time of Rajabhoga arati. So all of them gathered in the courtyard of Prabhu. After waving light before the Prabhus, the priest prepared separte beautiful beds for the Prabhus and laid them on them. He placed beautiful covers on their bodies and began to fan them. After sometime, quickly he came out of the temple and after bowing on the doorstep, he closed the door. Srinivasa told them that all of them would take their food here in the courtyard of Prabhu. Thus, he began to clear the place and the mhantas sat there in a disciplined row. Someone arranged the bananna leaves before their seats while, someone served drinking water to them. Someone brought bowls of curd, milk etc. while someone served salt on the banana leaves. Sri Janhava Isvari quickly brought all the food bowls the smel of which seemed almost divine to them. The mahantas started eating very gladly. After finishing their eating they washed their mouths and said, "We have eaten alot." Acyutananda and others said slowly, "We don't know how we ate so much." "It was due to the capacity of Sri Isvari", said Sripati, Srinidhi, Vaninath etc. Sri Raghunandana and others said, "We won't get such an opportunity

again." Acarya Thakur and Thakur Mahasaya very humbly told Sri Isvari, "You must be tired now. It is our request, please sit in a lonely place and eat something." Isvari said, "No, I want to feed you all first and then I shall eat. Come along and sit with all soon." Hearing this Acarya quickly requested others to sit in a row. Then Sri Isvari began to serve food to them. When their eating was over, they used to tell one another, "Even the gods cannot have the taste like this. We have not eaten such tasteful preparations in our life." And Raghunanadana and others used to get divine pleasure in observing the eating of Srinivasa and others. After eating, Srinivasa, Narottama, Ramacandra, Govinda, Sridasa, Ramakrsna, Kumuda, Gokulananda, Vyasa, Syamananda, Srikrnsna Vallabha, Devidasa, Bhagavana, Nrsimha, Gokula, Karnapura, Kisora, Rasikananda, Gauranga Thakura, Sri Gopiramana left their seats, washed their mouths and took the offered betel leaves of the Prabhus. Then Sri Acarya hastily arranged a seat for Sri Janhava for her eating in a lonely place. Sri Janhava with a fully satisfied heart took her seat and ate prasadam. After her eating, Srinivasa with Syamananda began to serve food to Balarama Pujari and the rest of the persons affectionately. Sri Janhava Devi then took bath in hot water. The brahmana maid-servant wiped very slowly the body of Sri Isvari with a fine cloth because her body was not only burned by the fire of separation from Prabhu but also very emaciated. Then another maid-servant brought a dried cloth for Sri Isvari, She then took her seat and ate a piece of Haritaki (a kind of dried fruit) to clean her mouth. She told Narottama very affectionately, "At long last, today I took a full died." Narottama became so emotional that he could not speak. He only began to cry in the memory of Caitanya Nityananda. She then consoled emotional Narottama. Srinivasa with Syamananda delightfully came to Sri Isvari who very lovingly told Srinivasa, "It is not wise to make delay in going to Vrndavana. Tomorrow morning I want to start." Acarya said, "Oh it is painful to us to think of your going from here." She said, "I have to go and now it is the best time because everything here can be performed perfectly." Again Acarya said humbly, "It will be good if you take some rest now." Hearing this, she at once lay down there. Acarya, Thakura Mahasya and Syamananda also took some rest and then they went to the room of Sri Acyutananda who with his companions were then engaged in talking about Krsna. They became very happy to get these three in their discussion. After sometime they told Acarya, "It is so painful to tell you that tomorrow we want to take your leave." Acarya said, "Who has the power to forbid you. But I think, tomorrow morning all of you should do your cooking in your own rooms and you should take your baths early." They all agreed and went to their own places. Acarya Thakura, Sri Thakura Mahasaya, and Syamananda came to the temple courtyard where Sri Santosa Raya and others also came. They then discussed about that arrangement for the next day. So oh, listeners, be patient in listening to Narottama Vilasa, narrated by Narahari.

THE EIGHTH VILASA

Glory to Gaura, Nityananda, Advaita and others. Be kind to this poor soul. Glory to the merciful listeners. At the time of evening ceremony of waving light before Sri Gauracandra all the mahantas came to the temple. They became very happy to observe the ceremony. The priest gave them offered garlands and Tulsi. Then they began sankirtana. After that they went to their own rooms. Many items of food were offered to Prabhu. After Prabhu's eating, Sri Acarya took rpasadam fro Isvari and then distributed that separately and served to every room. All of them became very happy to eat the tasteful prasadam. Sri Acarya told everybody to bless Santosa Raya who had arranged everything by giving the full financial help. They also blessed him. Being happy Acarya Mahasaya with his companions came to the temple of Prabhu. Sri Acarya, Thakur Mahasaya adn Syamananda ate some prasadam. Again Sri Acarya cautioned those whom he had engaged in the service of the mahantas. As it was late at night, they all entered into their rooms and went to sleep. In the mrning, they completed their morning duties. Now the cooks of the mahantas took their baths first, did their 'Anhika' and going round the Tulsi. Then they entered into the separate kitchens. Ramacandra Kaviraja with others supplied the necesary commodities to the cooks in each kitchen. Then the cooks began to cook varieties of items very gladly. At the time of cooking, Ramacandra and others used to be standing cautiously beside the kitchens if any cook needed any help. Sri Santosa Raya was engaged in arranging separte containers decorated with betel leaves, gold and silver coins, beautiful silk dreses what he would offer to the mahantas. Sri Santosa Raya went to Sri Isvari and asked for her permission. Then he went to all the mahantas and offered them those things one by one. They all wore the silk cloths and sat for doing Anhika. Santosa Raya gave beautiful cloth and coins to each and everyone who came with the mahanatas. At the time Acarya came to that place and became very glad to see the charity of Santosa Raya. In the meantime the priest informed that he had arranged prasadam separately. Sri Acarya requested them to take seats and began to serve food to them. The mohantas sat in rows and became very ahppy to eat prasadam. In the courtyard of Sri Janhava Isvari's house, some Vaisnavas took their seats for taking meals. They were Krsnadasa Sarakhela, Madhava Acarya, Raghupati Upadhyaya, Krsna Bhaktavarya, Sri Minaketana, Ramadasa, Mahidhara, Murari, Caitanya, Jnanadasa, Manohara, Kamalakara Piplai, Nrsimha Caitanya, Sri Jiva Pandita, Sri Gaurangadasa, Vrndavana, Sri Sankara, Kanai, Nakari, Krsnadasa, Paramesvaradasa, Balarama, Damodara and Mukunda. I am giving the names of these who sat with Sri Acyutananda for eating. They were Sri Gopala, younger brother of Acyutananda, Sri Kanu Pandita, Visnudasa, Narayana, Banamali dasa, Sri Ananta, Janardana, Sri Mahava, Lokanath Bhagavataacarya. Raghunathacarya with his companions, Sri Caitanyadasa, son of Sri Vansivadana, with his companions, Sri Hrdya Caitanya with his companions, all were enjoying the prasadam, by sitting in their own rooms. What

abeautiful scene there, all were enjoying prasadam delightfully. In another room were eating Sripati, Srinidhi, Krsnadasa, Sri Sanjaya, Kasinatha, Mukunda, Paramananda, Sekhar Pandita, Krsnadasa, Vaisya, Subhananda, Sri Gopala Acarya, Kvicandra Kirtaniya, Sasthivara. Krsnadasa of Akaihata with his companions were eating in their place most gladly. Vaninatha, Sivananda, Vallabha Caitanya, Nartaka Gopala, Bhagavataacarya Jita Misra, RAghu, Sri Uddhava, Kasinath, Sri Narayana Misra and Sri Mangala sat in one place and were eating all along very happily. Sri Raghunandana, Sulocana and others were eating in their room. Sri Yadunandana Cakravarty and his companions were taking prasadam by siting in their own place. Sri Acarya and Sri Thakur Mahasaya were inspecting their eating very carefully. When all the mahantas finished their eating, they were offered water for washing their mouths. After that they took rpasadam. At last the priest fed all the Vaisnava guests there. EVen the untouchable persons also got the highest respect there. At long last, Acarya and Thakur Mahasaya took their prasadam. Who has witnessed such a big festival in his life? People used to say that they had never seen such a great festival. Some persons said that how it was possible for a human being to perform such a festival which was even totally impossible for the gods. Some persons said that those who had performed this festival, they were no human beings because all the devotees of Sri Caitanya were even worshipped by the gods. Some persons said that they had even moved the heretics by the topics on Krsna. ABove all, the heretics had eaten the left over food of the Vaisnavas and prayed to them to rescue them from damnation. Some persons said that Narottama would rescue all the heretics from damnation and there would be not a single heretic in this country. In this way, the people began to glorify Narottama. Now listen, Sri Acarya after taking some rest, told Thakur Mahasaya privately, "They will take their leave in the morning. They will take their baths after crossing Padmavati. We should pack some food for them, so that they can eat after bath." Hearing this, Thakur Mahasaya did not loose time. He quickly ordered to prepare food. After food had been ready, he first of all offered them to Prabhu and then packed them separately. He reported Acarya that everything was ready but all these preparations could be done by the evening. Here all the mahantas being eager to observe the waving light ceremony came out of their rooms and gathered in the courtyard of Prabhu. The priest offered them garlands, and Tulsi. After the ceremony, the mahantas started sankirtana. Within a while, the river of nectar began to flow there and all the mahantas began to swim in the ocean of love. They could not control themselves and fell on the ground out of ecstasy. Their beautiful bodies became smeared with dust. After a long time, they observed the Sayana Arati of Prabhu. Again the priest gave garlands and Tulsi to them. Then the mahantas returned to their own places. Acarya with Narotama supplied prasadam separtely to each room. He told the mahantas, "Tomorrow Khetari will sink into utter darkness. I am giving some prasadam with you so that you can eat after crossing Padmavati. At noon, you can reach Budhari. Govinda with some men

and the cooks should enter first to the village. Ramacandra and others will go with them up to Budhari. Then they will be back here for accompanying Sri Isvari to Vrndavana. Now please accept these prasadam and eat all of your Srinivasa fed all of them with a broken heart. Even the mahantas became so emotional that they all kept mum. Then Acarya reported everything to Sri Isvari. Observing the disturbed condition of Srinivasa, Sri Isvari console dhim and most affectionately gave him her left over fod. In a delighted mind, Acarya asked Santosa to make the boats ready for the mahantas. Santosa said that he had alreadydone that. Hearing this Acarya became very glad and went his room to take some rest. In the morning all of them did their morning duties and observed the morning ceremony of waving lights. Sri Govinda Kaviraja with some companions and cooks started first. They crossed Padmavati and at noon reached Budhari. Here the mahantas in the morning went to take leave of Sri Isvari. Sri Acyutananda told her in crying, "Most probably, I may not see you again." Sri Gopala and others told something which could break the heart. Sripati, Srinidhi and others, Vaninath and others, Raghunatha Acarya and others, all of them became perturbed and grief-stricken at the time of taking leave. Sri Hrdaya Caitanya said, "Please, let me see your feet again." Sri Canda Haldara, Mitu Haldara, Sri Caitanya and others could not speak anything. Sri Raghunandana told her, "Please, be kind to us to see you soon." Sri Yadunandana said, "Please come back Piplai and others to go back to Khardaha. After bidding farewell to them, she became extremely sad. Other mahantas gathered in teh courtyard of Prabh and became ecstatic in emotion. They lay prostrate on the ground and their bodies became smeared with dust. They all asked for the well being of Acarya and others from Prabhuan and prayed to him to favor them to listen to this sankirtana life after life. The priest gave them the clothes used by Prabhu. By holding the clothes on their hands, they started with broken hearts. Sri Hrdaya Caitanya by holding Acarya in his lap, told milkdly, "Visit Amvika time to time and let me see you. Syamananda is your." Acarya said, "Syamanands is my life. I do not think of him anything other than this. To Narottama and Ramacandra, Syamananda and his companions are most precious things." Hrdaya Caitanya most affectionately dedicated Syamananda to Srinivasa. When they left Khetari village, an outcryof despair arose in that village. The people of that village became mad in sorrow. On the bank of Padmavati, Acarya consoled everybody. After embracing everyone, the mahantas wtih Ramacandra and others boarded ont eh boats which started at once. Acarya and others, rolled on the ground with loud crying. Observing them, the mahantas could not resist their tears. By the wish of Prabhu, they somehow crossed Padmavati. They took their baths and ate prasadam and then started for Budhari village. Acarya and others returned to Khetari. Srinivasa with Sri Thakur Mahasaya and syamananda went to the temple of Prabhu. The priest told Acarya Thakur, "Just now, Sri Isvari took her bath. After the leaving of the mahantas, she had been sitting alone in a pool of tears. Sri Madhava Acarya and others also took their baths just now." Hearing

this, Sri Acarya again became restless and hastily went to see Sri Isvari. Sri Isvari eagerly asked Srinivasa about the going of the mahantas and he reported everything in brief. On hearing the report, Sri Isvari looked at the face of Srinivasa whom she found very thin not only for the misery of separation but also for his fasting since last night. She thought, "Today they are not at all thinking of their eating. I'm afraid of their health. If I do not take the initiative of feeding them they won't get anything to eat." Thinking so, she told Acarya sweetly, "You had already taken your bath and it is now afternoon. But you are still in fasting. It is paining me. So be quiet and take food in my house." Hearing this, Acarya became so obliged that he called Narottama and others to that place. Sri Isvari affectionately ordered Nrsimha Caitanya and others to call everyone and sit in a row on the ground. Someone arranged the banana leaves and someone filled the glasses with water. Then Sri Isvari served various kinds of food to them. Being ordered by Sri Isvari they all ate happily. Sri Isvari out of affection, again and again served a profuse quantity of food to them. They all ate voraciously. After their eating, the servants cleaned the place. Sri Acarya and others happily went to gather in the courtyard of Prabhu. Someone gave them offered betel leaves. When they returned to their own rooms, they found many persons were waiting for mahaprasadam. So they were also served prasadam. In this way a huge number of Vaisnavas were fed. Sri Isvari's loving service cooled their miseries of separation. So a day ended happily. Sri Isvari went to the temple and became ecstatic in observing the beauty of Prabhu. The priest gave her the offered garland. In the evening during the ceremony of waving light, millions of people gathered in the courtyard. Next started the sankirtan whose divine sound covered the world. Aged, young, respectable became mad in sankirtana. Even the gods amalgamated themselves with the people to join in that sankirtana. Some persons began to roll on the ground while some began to roar like lions. Who will describe the happiness of Sri Nama sankirtana? In this way they spent the whole night unconsciously. Due to the wish of Prabhu, they stopped at last. Sri Janhava Isvari happily returned to her house. In the morning, after finishing her daily duties, she took bath in hot water. After doing worship, she began cooking preparations. Here Sri Acarya and others after taking their baths and observing the rajbhoga arati of Prabhu, came to see Sri Isvari. In the meantime, Sri Isvari offered food to Prabhu and after his eating she took away the bowls from the temple. Then she sat among Sri Acarya and others. She asked Acarya anxiously about Ramacandra and others. At the same time, they returned from Vudhuri. They reported, "Everything could be completed perfectly and the mahantas could eat at Vudhuri very timely. The mahantas did sankirtana after their eating. At late night they slept a little and in the early morning, everyone became very much perturbed to bid farewell to us. Most probably, we all became stone-hearted at that time of separation so that we became able to cross Padmavati to come here very easily." Saying so, they became silent. Sri Isvari consoled them and fed them. Sri Acarya ate

the left over food of Sri Isvari and then fed the rest of the Vaisnavas who had been waiting for prasadam. Everyone showed their respect to Sri Acarya who consoled Santosa and others by saying, "Due to the wish of Sri Isvari, everything is over very successfully. Now she is eager to go to Vrndavana and I should not stop her from going. When she will be back from Vrndavana, you can see her feet again. Now don't show her your restlessness of minds. Tomorrow morning, she will start." Hearing this, Sri Santosa Raya slowly went to Isvari and stood there very humbly. Knowing his mind, Sri Isvari consoled him and Santosa requested her to come back soon to them. Sri Isvari assured him. Then Sri Santosa Raya most gladly brought all the things what he would give to Sri Isvari for carrying to Vraja. He gave fine silky clothes, ornaments, jewelleries for Sri Govinda, Gopinath, Madanamohana, Sri Radhavinoda and Sri Radha-ramana and Radha Damodara. Apart from these, he also gave gold and silver coins to Sri Isvari. Sri Janhava became very happy to see that every arrangement had become complete very perfectly. At the time of waving the light ceremony of the evening, Sri Isvari told something silently to Prabhu and the garland of Prabhu fell on the ground. The priest gave that to Sri Isvari who held that on her head. After Sri Nama sankirtana, Sri Isvari sleep. In the morning, she first went to take her leave of Prabhu. The priest gave her offered garlands. Now I shall give the names of companions who went with Sri Isvari. They were Sri Pandita Krsnadasa, son of Suryadasa, Madhava Acarya, Murari, Caitanya, Krsnadasa brahmana, Nrsimha Caitanya, Balarama, Mohindhara, Kanai, Nakaridasa, Gauranga, Sankara, Sri Paramesvara dasa, Das Damodara, Raghupati Vaidya, Upadhyaya Manohara, Jnanadasa, Mukundadasa and others. From Khetari, Sri Isvari took Sri Govinda, Sri Gopiramana, Bhagavana, Gokula, Nrsimha, Vasudeva and others. The people of Khetari lost their patience and began to cry. Sri Narottama, Acarya and others began to follow them for some distance in crying. The feature of love, Sri Janhava Isvari, pacified them in various ways and forbade them to follow her anymore. So she got up in a palanquin and started her journey. Sri Acarya, Narottama and Syamananda could not check their tears at the time of their going. In a broken heart, they returned to Khetari. The people of Khetari in a dying condition, began to sing the glory of Sri Janhava. Someone told to another, "She will be back very soon from Vrndavana." Some said, "She will go to her village in another way. What is the use of coming here?" Someone said, "This Acarya Mahasayaha has won over Sri Isvari by his love and devotion." All these discussions made them very happy. Here Sri Acarya, Sri Thakur Mahasaya and Syamananda returned to the temple. Due to the wish of Sri Isvari, they pacified themselves and completed their baths and worship and then went to observe the waving light ceremony of Prabhu. They visited all the Vaisnava houses, met them and talked with them. Then they fed others the prasadam and took their seats in the courtyard of Prabhu. The cook of Prabhu began to serve food to them. After eating they washed their mouths and took betel leaves. Acarya along with others became engaged in talking about Krsna. In the morning Acarya came

to the temple courtyard and told the Vaisnavas who were about to take their leave, "It is your place. Please come here from time to time. Now it is evening and too late to start today. Tomorrow morning you should start for your own villages. Now please accept the things which Santosa Raya had cherished in his mind to give." All of them became glad to hear the nectar like words of Acarya. Thus Sri Santosa Raya, according to their permission, offered fine clothes and coins to them. In the evening, all of them observed the waving light and then went to their rooms to sleep. Srinivasa with his companions sat there for sometime in discussing the topic of Krsna and then went to bed. In the morning, Acarya and others gathered in the courtyard of Prabhu and observed the morning waving light. The Vaisnavas who would like their leave then, also gathered and observed the ceremony. The priest gave them garlands of Prabhu. Gradually all the Vaisnava guests took their leave of Khetari in singing the glory of the great festival. The bairhmanas, the singers, the dancers and the instrumentalists also took their leaves in tears. On observing the procession of men from Khetari, the people of that place began to say, "Who is able to count the heads"? Someone said, "Everything has been possible for Narottama." In this way, they began to sing the glory of Narottama. Here Narottama and Srinivasa took their baths and after doing their worship, ate some sweets. We don't know on what topic, Narottama and Srinivasa were engaged in talking about but we see them wet with the tears from their eyes. They observed the beauty of Prabhu and rajbhoga arati of Prabhu. Then they ate prasadam and after that took betel leaves. Then they took their seats. Acarya very affectionately told Sri Thakur Mahasaya and Syamananda, "I shall start tomorrow morning with Syamananda and by crossing Padmavati, I shall go to Vudhuri village. From there I shall go to Yajigrama, I won't stay there long and shall go to Vana-Visnupura. Again I shall be back to Yajigrama. And Syamananda will first visit Navadvipa and Amvika and then should go and settle at Vahadurapura in Dharendra. He should preach devotion in all those places and should send me a letter with all reports. I shall send a letter with detailed reports of Yajigrama to him very soon. When Sri Isvari will be back here, do send me a letter as soon as possible. Sri Isvari will take this course and from here some persons should accompany her. Then all of us will come to Khetari again very soon." Though this news of his going was a shock to Thakur Mahasaya, yet he pacified himself and went to prepare arrangements for Acarya's going. He sent a letter quickly to Vudhuri and arranged the boats for crossing Padmavati. The things, which would go with Syamananda were handed over in charge of Rasikananda. The things which would go with Sri Acarya were handed over in the charge of Karnapura Kaviraja. Sri Santosa arranged all these things and reported to Sri Thakur Mahasaya. Hearing this, Acarya became very happy and along with others went to inspect the store room of Prabhu. He found that the store room was full of commodities and praised Santosa for this superb deed. They all spent the evening in enjoying the waving light ceremony. The priest put on the garlands around their necks for which they began

to look very beautiful. Observing the beauty of Prabhu, Acarya again and again glanced at Narottama knowing his intention, Sri Thakur Mahasaya started sankirtana. The other singers and instrumentalists began to arranged their instruments such as khola and kartalas. Devidasa, Gokula, Gauranga and others began to play khola and kartalas. Sri Thakur Mahasaya began to sing a song written by Sri Vasu Ghosa:

"Oh Sakhi, look at the feature of Gaura.
See, his beautiful face defeating millions of moons,
his hands defeating the elephants,
his eyes defeating the Khanjana birds,
See, his beautiful forehead bedecked with tilaka,
his long stretching hands and flower garland around his neck,
his conch like throat and broad chest,
bedecked with sandal and ornaments.
See, his thigh and knee defeating the banana tree and his saffron dress,
his white nails defeating millions of moons.
Vasu Ghosa says, "Gora where have you been?
Has the providence created your beauty to charm the maids"?

How can I describe the sweet tune of the song? Mrdanga accomapniment with the song attracted everone's heart. On listening the sweet sound of the mrdanga and the melting voice of Narottama made Sri Acarya Thakur mad in love. He stood up to dance in a beautiful posture which maddened the listeners. He began to shine in his beautiful posture which maddened the listeners. He began to shine in his beautiful golden complexion. How magnetic was his smile in his mon like face. How attractive were his lips with kunda white teeth. How big were his lotus eyes stretching up to his ears. How beautiful were his bee like eyebrows and parrot beak like nose. How long were his hands and broad was his chest. How deep was his naval and beautiful were his legs and feet. Viewers became mesmerised to see his dancing. The whole of Khetari was present there. Even many respected persons from distant places were present there. The whole festival area was lighted up with lamps. Sometimes the people used to sing loudly the glory of all singing and dancing there. Even the gods in their carriers appeared on the scene to enjoy the dancing of Srinivasa. The gods began to say that it was not at all possible for human being to dance like this. Only the servants of Sri Caitanya could do this. The gods began to shower fwoers on the head of Acarya. While dancing, Srinivasa forgot his own entity and in emotion he began to embrace Devidasa in a pool of tears. Who can restrain himself from being moved to listen to the khola recital of Devidasa and kirtana recital of Sri Gokula. Sri Thakur Mahasaya began to shout, "Speak, speak" by embracing him. Syamananda, Ramacandra Kaviraja and others became overwhelmed with emotion and began to weep. Thus the ocean of happiness overflowed there for the beautiful sankirtana. Due to the wish of Prabhu, they stopped at late night. After completing kirtana, all of them began to roll on the ground

and smeared the dust of that place. After embracing each and everyone, they returned to their own houses to take some rest. In the morning, Sri Acarya dressed up and came to the courtyard of Prabhu. Syamananda with his companions also came to that place. Narottama with Ramacandra and Santosa and others in a broken heart came too. Even the people of Khetari on hearing the leaving of Acarya, came running to the place. The courtyard of Prabhu became a crowded place. Syamananda bowed before Prabhu. The priest gave garland and clothes offering of Prabhu to Acarya who distributed those among others. Though inwardly Acarya was very much moved, yet outwardly he consoled everybody and started from Khetari. Sri Thakur Mahasaya became down with misery. Ramacandra pacified him very lovingly. On reaching the bank of Padmavati, Acarya Thakur hastily boarded on the boat to conceal his emotion. Sri Thakur Mahasaya told many things to Syamananda who began to float in a stream of tears. Narottama by taking Syamananda in his lap began to weep helplessly. Ramacandra pacified them. Syamananda got on a boat which started at once. They crossed the river and reached Vudhuri. Here Thakur Mahasaya and others took their baths and returned to the courtyard of Prabhu. Suddenly the happy memories of Prabhu's dancing with his associates made Narottama so happy that he began to sing the glory of the courtyard. The priest informed Sri Thakur Mahasaya that Prabhu's arati was over and now they could eat prasadam. Sri Thakur Mahasaya with others ate happily and distributed prasadam among the villagers of Khetari. On that day many heretics also ate prasadam. Now a change came to their minds and they began to talk to others in this way, "Oh brothers, how fruitless our lives are. Who will rescue us from the judgement of Yama? This Thakur Narottama can do this." Someone said, "I am scared of going near him." Someone said, "Let us fall on his feet." In saying this, they in crying fell on the feet of Narottama. Sri Thakur Mahasaya who is an ocean of mercy, very sweetly told them, don't cry. You are very fortunate. Sri Krsna Caitanya will favor you and rescue you from damnation." On hearing these hopeful words, the poor souls cried out, "Oh my lord, we had done all types of evil deeds. We are not afraid of doing those deeds. We had gone elsewhere for dacoity and only had returned last night. Those who did not go with us, rebuked us to a great extent. They were also dangerous dacoits but now due to you, they have become Vaisnavas. "Oh my lord, be merciful to us." These pathetic confessions melted the heart of Thakur Mahasaya who favored them all. He advised them, "Always do wise company and being very humble always listen and sing kirtana. Always be careful about behaving with Vaisnavas. Don't do anything which may humiliate them. And always cite Harinama." Saying so he embraced them all. All of them ran to fall on his feet and he put his feet on the heads of each and everyone. So devotion most automatically came to reign over them. Sri Thakur Mahasaya became very anxious for not getting any news from Acarya. He decided to send Ramacandra to Acarya but in the meantime a man came with the letter of Acarya from Yajigrama. Being very glad, Thakur Mahasaya sent a reply to Acarya and began to sing the glory of Acarya. All these episodes can

purify your mind, so be kind to listen to Narottama Vilasa by Narahari.

THE NINTH VILASA

Glory to Gaura, Nityananda, Advaita and others. Be favorable to this poor soul. Glory to the merciful listeners. While going to Vrndavana from Khetari, Sri Janhava Isvari had done some transcendental deeds. Many wicked heretics got favor and mercy from her and obtained the most valuable jem like devotion. Those who came in contact with her, got the favor of Sri Krsna Caitanya and became mad in singing the glory of Him. The road which Sri Isvari had taken for her travel, the local people used to follow her in that way. The village which she used to choose for her halt, the villagers there used to get extreme pleasure. In this way, favoring many poor souls, she went to Madhupuri (Mathura) quickly via Prayaga. She with all her followers took bath in Sri Visrama Ghata. She paid respect to a brahmana of Mathura and stayed there for that night. In the morning, after taking bath, again started her journey. The news of her coming to Mathura, spread all over the country. The Gsovamis of Vrndavana quickly came forward to receive her. Here Sri Isvari became charmed to see the beauty of the forests of Vrndavana. She could not control her tears. So she got down from her palanquin and started walking on foot. Sri Paramesvara dasa told slowly to Isvari, "Sri Gopala Bhatta, Sri Bhgarbha, Lokanath, Sri Jiva, Sri Krsna Pandita and others have come here to receive you." Saying so, he showed her their coming towards her. Seeing them, Sri Janhava became overwhelmed with joy. The Gosvamis began to shed tears on seeing Sri Isvari and fell on her feet. They were introduced to Krsnadasa Sarkhela, Madhavacarya etc. Sri Paramesvara dasa introduced Sri Govinda and others to them. Sri Govinda Kaviraja and others bowed to the feet of the Gosvamis. The Gosvamis most cordially and affectionately embrace dthem. Sri Jiva Gosvami talked alot with Sri Isvari and very carefully helped her to get on the palanquin. He took all of them very quickly to a lonely house. The people took to their heels to meet Sri Isvari. The priests of Sri Govinda, Gopinath and Madanamohana came also to meet her. How can I describe the highest of pleasure which occurred in Vrndavana after this meeting? When Sri Isvari with her folwoers settled themselves in that house, many items of food came to them. Sri Isvari first of fed her men and then took something herself. Sri Gopala Bhatta and others most gladly returned to their houses. For observing the rajabhoga arati of Sri Govinda. Sri Jiva Gosvami took all of them to the temple. Sri Janhava Isvari became charmed to see the beauty of Sri Radha Govinda after entering into the temple. Sri Madhava Acarya and others also became overwhelmed to observe Sri Govinda. After arati, they took mahaprasadam and returned to their house for taking rest. Sri Jiva Gosvami returned to his house. In the afternoon, Sri Janhava Isvari and others quickly took their baths. Then they observed Madanamohana, Gopinath, Sri Radhavinoda, Sri Radharamana and Sri Radha Damodara. She offered those clothes and ornaments to the deities which she had brought with her. Then they took prasadam. She reported to Lokanath, about the great festival at Khetari and the course of her coming

to Vrndavana. The Gosvamis became very glad to hear those incidents. The Gosvamis also narrated the happenings in Vrndavana. Sri Isvari became very perturbed to listen to the narrations. After checking her emotion, she told all of them to listen to the poetry composed by Govinda. His compositions so charmed the Gosvamis that they conferred the title of Kaviraja on Govinda. After taking permission from them, Sri Isvari started for Vahula Vana and then for Srikunda. Those who came from Srikunda, now accompanied Sri Isvari to that place. After visiting Radhakunda and Syamakunda, they went to Sri Manasa Ganga and Govardhana. Then they went to Vrsabhanupura and from there to Nandisvara. They also visited Sri Javata village where Balarama had done His rasalila sport. Again they returned to Vrndavana. Sri Isvari cooked food for the deities and offered them. Then she distributed that prasadam among the Gosvamis. In this way, Sri Janhava stayed a few days there. Sri Jiva Gosvami read out from his books for Sri Isvari. Now Sri Isvari with her followers visited the twelve forests of Vraja. Then she began to think returning to Gaura. The Gosvamis permitted her to go. She took her leave of Sri Govinda, Gopinath, Madanamohana, Radha Damodara, Sri Radharamana and Sri Radha Vinoda. I am unable to describe her pathetic state of mind at the time of leaving. Madhava Acarya and others pacified her. That day they stayed there. Gauridasa Pandita had a favorite disciple whose name was Varu Gangadasa, a man of fine qualities. Once he had come to Vrndavana but he could not live in one place for a long time and used to travel always here and there. Sri Isvari favored him and ordered him to go with her to Gaura. Thus by her ordered, he prepared himself to go with her. Here Govinda and others went to the houses of the Gosvamis to take farewell. They bowed to the feet of Sri Gopala Bhatta and Lokanath. The Gosvamis blessed them by putting their feet on their heads and conveyed their blessings to Srinivasa and Narottama. From there they went to the house of Bhugarbha Gosvami and then to the house of Sri Jiva Gosvami. There they found Sri Krsnadasa Kaviraja and others. So getting all of them there, they fell on their feet. The Gosvamis blessed them wholeheartedly. So Jiva Gosvami affectionately told Govinda, "report everything to Acarya and send me a copy of your book Gitamrta. I shall finish this book which I am writing now very soon. I shall send it with a letter to you there." Saying so, he gave his book Gopala Virudavali to Govinda. Krsnadasa Kaviraja highly recommended that book. In this way, they visited all the Gosvami houses and returned to their house for some rest. Sri Isvari at late night went to bed and during her sleep Sri Gopinath appeared before her in her dream. He gave His own garland to Isvari and in a sweet smile, told her, "What you have thought about my lady-love, send me from Gaura as soon as possible. She will sit by my left side and this will remain on my right side. The beauty which will come out of that, you can see later on." Saying so He entered into the temple. She woke up and hid the garland in a private place. She went to observe the morning ceremony of waving light. Then she came back very gladly to her house. On that morning; in an auspicious moment, she started from

there. The Gosvamis came to bid farewell and accompanied her for some distance. Then being ordered by Sri Isvari, they stopped following her but burst into tears. Sri Janhava Isvari also began to weep. Krsnadasa Pandita, Madhava Acarya, Murari, Caitanya and others began to weep too. With them wept the people of Vraja. After a long time, the people of Vraja stopped following them and returned to their houses. Sri Isvari with others came to Sri Mathura and decided to do a night halt there. She very carefully fed the Mathura brahmana. From there she started for Gaura. After a few days, she reached Khetari. Having got the news of her coming, Narottama out of joy, forgot his own entity. He sent a message to Ramacandra who with others at once came to Narottama's house. They moved forward with the people of Khetari to receive Sri Isvari. Who can describe the flood of happiness when all of them met one another. Narottama and others fell on the ground to bow to her feet. She became glad too to see Narottama and others again. Then with a big crowd she entered into Khetari proper. Sri Isvari was given the same house of the time of festival. Many Vasinavas were engaged to serve her. Her companions were also given the same houses. Varu Gangadasa felt charmed to see the loneliness of the place. Ramacandra Kaviraja very carefully carried many necessary things to their houses separately. Sri Thakur Mahasaya earnestly requested Sri Isvari to take her bath. Thus she took hot bath and then ate some prasadam. Then she quickly cooked for Prabhu and offered Him. When the mahantas finished their baths, Sri Santosa offered them new clothes and some prasadam. Then the cooks prepared food, offered Sri Krsna and then served the prasadam to the mahantas. Then Sri Govinda Kaviraja and others with the cooks sat for taking food. After that, all of them took a little nap. Sri Isvari also took a little nap and then got up quickly to complete her bath. Narottama, Ramacandra, Santosa and others gladly came to meet Sri Isvari. Sri Isvari ordered them to take their seats. Narottama cherished the hope of telling something to her and she at once realised that. For his satisfaction, Sri Isvari explained the incidents that had happened at Vrndavana. She also very subtly explained the order of Sri Gopinath. When she told them that she would start soon, Ramacandra with folded hands, told her, "We hope that you will stay here for sometime but your decision has made us very much disappointed." Isvari said, "I cannot think anything at all you better suggest me what to do." Sri Thakur Mahasaya said slowly, "It is good to start for Khardaha within a couple of days for your presence is necessary at the time of building the image. It is not wise to waste time in relation to this type of job. It will take some time to reach Khardaha. Tomorrow I shall send a man to Khardaha." Saying so, in the presence of Sri Janhava Isvari, he wrote a letter and handed over to Santosa. He also wrote a letter to Sri Acarya and despatched both the letters without delay through two persons. In the evening Sri Isvari went to the courtyard of Prabhu to observe the waving light ceremony. She remained there for a long time in listening to kirtana. Then she returned to her house Madhava Acarya and others also returned to their places. Ramacandra and

others also returned to their places. Ramacandra and others remained in the courtyard of Prabhu. After the offering of food to Prabhu, they distributed the food among the mahantas. After eating they relaxed on the beds and Sri Santosa and others remained engaged in massaging their legs. Ramacandra with a little milk offering of Prabhu, went to Sri Isvari and requested her to drink that. The brahmana ladies who were with Sri Isvari, were given food also. While Sri Isvari went to sleep, Ramacandra returned to the temple of Prabhu. He with Govinda and others took some prasadam. Thakur Mahasaya also ate something. In an opportune moment, Thakur Mahasaya instructed Govinda Kaviraja about some duties to be done towards the Gosvamis on their journey and handed over the book Gopala Virudavali to Govinda. Govinda gave that to Ramacandra. Then all of them went to sleep. In the dream of Narottama, Sri Lokanath Gosvami appeared. Narottama fell on his feet and soaked his lotus feet with his tears. Lokanath embraced Narottama and consoled him with very sweet words. Then he disappeared. Sri Thakur Mahasaya became very happy and spent the whole night in singing Sri Nama kirtana. In the morning all the mahantas took the pleasure of discussing about Sri Vrndavana with Narottama. They spent four days in this way during which Sri Isvari took the pleasure of cooking for them. Sri Thakur Mahasaya after discussing with Ramacandra, fixed up a date of Isvari's going. He sent Sri Govinda Kaviraja and some others to Vudhuri. Sri Santosa said, "Tomorrow they will start in the morning. So let us prepare the arrangements. He instructed the priests, "Be careful in serving Prabhu and the Vaisnava's." Warning them in this way, he reported everything to Sri Isvari. Sri Santosa Raya prepared everything and handed over the things for Sri Isvari to Paramesvara dasa. In the morning they all took their leave of Prabhu. The priest gave them Prabhu's garlands and clothes. They all bowed to Prabhu by lying on the ground. We do not know what Sri Isvari had prayed to Prabhu silently. She held the garland and clothes on her head. Then she started with all from the courtyard. Sri Thakur Mahasaya bade her farewell by citing a hymn written by himself:

"Gauranga Vallabhi Kanta Sri Krsna Vrjamohana.
Radharamana he Radhe Radhakanta Namohastute."

Ramacandra with those who would accompany her, became very perturbed at the time of their leaving. The people of Khetari village became very perturbed also. They followed her up to the bank of Padmavati. After consoling everybody Sri Isvari got up on the boat. Sri Thakur Mahasaya ordered the boatman to cross the Padmavati quickly. The people of Khetari in a perturbed mind returned to their village. After crossing the river, they quickly came to Vudhuri. The people of that village came running to see the mahantas entering into their village. The mahantas became very satisfied with them and blessed them. Sri Isvari with all went to stay in a lonely place. Sri Govinda Kaviraja ordered the cooks to start cooking. Then they offered food to Krsna and kept aside the prasadam after sometime. Sri Isvari completed her cooking very briefly and offered them with milk to Krsna. Then she ate very

gladly. After taking another bath, she came to take her seat. The cooks distributed prasadam among the mahantas. Then Sri Thakur Mahasaya with the rest of all ate very gladly. On that day, Sri Isvari became very happy and negotiated the marriage of Varu Gangadasa who was a very apathetic type of man and had no intention to marry. But due to the order of Sri Isvari, he had to marry. Syama Raya, which was a beautiful image in looking, appeared in the dream of Sri Isvari and told her, "Now hand me over to Varu Gangadasa." Being ordered in her dream, Sri Isvari became very happy and did that what he had said. She arranged the food offering to Syama Raya and a great festival took place on the next day. We do not know what she had instructed Varu Gangadasa but we can see that since that day, he was engaged in the service of Syama Raya and began to settle at Vudhuri. Sri Isvari with all came to Kantakanagara. Sri Yadunandana and others came forward to receive them and brought them in the temple of Prabhu at the time of Prabhu's just going to bed. All of them became very happy to see Gauracandra and then went to an arranged house. Sri Thakur Mahasaya and others also were given beautiful but solitary houses. They went to take bath in the Ganges. Sri Yadunandana sent a message to Yajigrama and Sri Acarya Thakur with his men came quickly to that place. Then all of them ate prasadam. They became very glad to see Acarya. Srinivasa bowed to the feet of all the mahantas who affectionately embraced him. They asked Acarya about his well being. The persons who came with Srinivasa, bowed to the feet of the mahantas. The cooks prepared the food and offered Krsna. After that they kept aside the prasada. Sri Isvari cooked quickly in brief and offered to Krsna. Then she ate something and after taking another bath, she requested the mahantas to eat. The mahantas along with Srinivasa and others ate most gladly. Then Srinivasa went to Sri Isvari and they remained engaged in talking to each other. Then Srinivasa went to the house of Narottama. Sri Govinda Kaviraja reported everything to Srinivasa what the Gosvamis had instructed him. Ramacandra Kaviraja gave the book Gopala Virudavali to Acarya who held it on his head. He with all the mahantas observed the ceremony of waving light before Prabhu. They started snakirtana. Sri Janhava became overwhelmed to see the beauty of Prabhu. After a long time, she returned to her house. Sri Gauranga also was led to the bed to sleep. Srinivasa and the mahantas also went to their places to sleep. At the end of the night Sri Gopala Bhatta appeared in the dream of Srinivasa who at once fell on his feet and washed the lotus feet of his religious master by his tears. Sri Bhatta Gosvami embraced him and told Srinivasa sweetly, "I am always with you. You are my principal disciple in birth after birth." Saying so he put his feet on the head of Srinivasa and then disappeared. Srinivasa in the memory of Sri Gopala Bhatta, got up on his bed and sang the glory of Sri Krsna Caitanya. In the morning he finished his morning duties and bathing in the Ganges. He visited the temple of Sri Gauranga and the place of Sri Bharati. At the time of departing all of them became perturbed with misery. Srinivasa consoled Sri Yadunandana and others. Then with Sri Isvari, Srinivasa came to Yajigrama.

Acarya Thakura sent a message to Khanda which made the people of that place mad in joy. Sri Raghunandana came to Yajigrama and observed the feet of Sri Janhava. He stayed at Yajigrama for a long time during which he became restless in listening to the incidents of Vraja. Again with Srinivasa, he went to meet Sri Isvari and told her mildly, "I have heard everything from Srinivasa. There should be no delay to go to Kharadaha. Tomorrow, do come to Sri Khanda. I have go now." Saying so, after bowing to her feet, Sri Raghunandana returned to Khanda happily. He collected all necessary things for her service and cleaned the house for her. The people of Khanda began to wait eagerly for Sri Isvari. There at Yajigrama, Sri Isvari with others quickly finished their eating. Acarya read out from the devotional books for sometime and they started sankirtana. In the morning, Sri Isvari with others went to Sri Khanda. Quickly they moved to the courtyard of Prabhu and became glad to observe the beauty of Prabhu. They became overwhelmed with emotion to see the places where Nityananda Prabhu had danced, where He had drank honey in a trance of love, where Nitai had observed the dance of Narahari. After enjoying the pleasure of those places, they returned to their houses. On that day they quickly finished their cooking and after offering food to Prabhu, they finished their eating quickly. Knowing the mind of Sri Isvari, Sri Raghunandana started beautiful kirtana and in the flood of sankirtana, everyone began to swim happily. They began to roll on the ground forgetting their own entities. Playing of musical instruments was as beautiful as dancing. They began to sing the glory of singing dancing and playing of instruments in that way. In a trance of emotion, they spent the whole night in singing kirtana. Due to the wish of Prabhu they stopped at last and went to their houses to take rest. In the morning they did their morning duties. Sri Isvari hastily finished her bath, cooked for Prabhu and then fed all of them by her own hand. Who knows how they had enjoyed the eating on that day? Sri Raghunandana became overwhelmed with emotion observing the affection of Sri Isvari towards them. The people of Sri Khanda were greatly moved by the high qualities of the associates of Sri Isvari. Sri Isvari again took her bath and sat among Srinivasa and others. She told him, "From here, we should move to Khetari. Tomorrow morning, we should start for Khardaha. I shall send a message from there soon." Saying in this way, she came to the courtyard of Prabhu and observed the evening waving light. Then all of them started Sri Nama kirtana. When all of them went to their houses Sri Raghunandana and his men met Sri Isvari and told her softly, "We heard that tomorrow morning you will start from here. We don't dare to forbid you to go now. As you are independent one, we are scared to request you that we will be obliged if you please visit our place from time to time. There is no one so shameless creature like me. My worthless life is still alive though it is always burning in the fire of separation." Hearing these humble utterances of Sri Raghunandana, Sri Isvari could not check her tears. After a long time Sri Isvari and Raghunandana pacified themselves. Raghunandana distributed

prasadam to everybody though they were not at all hungry. He handed over the things what were for Sri Isvari to Sri Madhava Acarya. As it was already late forgoing to bed, they hastily went to their houses. In the morning, apathetic scene occurred there when all of them began to say goodbye to one another. Sri Isvari took the same course to go to Khardaha. Here Sri Thakur Raghunandana at Sri Khanda used to be very glad to get the company of Acarya and his associates. Sri Acarya stayed that day at Srikhanda. In the morning he went back to Yajigrama. After spending 2-3 days at Yajigrama, Acarya went to Nadia with two persons. His Navadvipa tour had been discussed in Bhaktiratnakara. From there, he came back to Yajigrama and spent that day in sankirtana. On the next day, he started in teh morning and within 4-5 days came to Vudhuri. He ordered Sri Govinda Kaviraja and others to stay at Vudhuri and he himself came to Khetari on the next day. The people of Khetari came to meet him. He with Thakur Mahasaya talked to them very sweetly. All of them came to the courtyard of Gauranga and observed Him. In the meantime, a letter from Khardaha. Being relieved to know about the well-being of Khardaha, he sent a reply with the news of well being of Khetari to Khardaha. After gonig back to their house, Acarya and Thakura Mahasaya remained engaged in discussing about Krsna. We do not know what Acarya, Thakura Mahasaya and Ramacandra had discussed alone. Sri Acarya stayed there for 15 days and then went to Kancanagaria via Vudhuri. There they stayed for 5 days and then went to Yajigrama. At Yajigrama, Sri Acarya remained engaged in teaching his disciples all the devotional scriptures. Who will dare to interfere in his discussions? The debate-loving persons used to flee from that place. Students from distant places used to come to him to study. Acarya used to visit many places as a Professor of devotional scriptures due to the favor of Sri Caitanya. Sinners and heretics due to the favor of Acarya, began to sing the glory of Sri Krsna Caitanya. Sri Thakur Narottama who was an ocean of qualities and a non-attachable peature of Sri Acarya, began to spend his days happily with Ramacandra who was more favorite to him than his own life. Sri Thakur Mahasaya and Ramacandra remained engaged in teaching Srimad Bhagavata and the books of the Gosvamis to their students. On listening to the analysis of devotional scriptures by Narottama, the believers in karma and jnana began to criticise Thakura Mahasaya by saying, "Being a Vaisnava, he is criticising karma and jnana." But even the brahmanas of distant places used to come to Khetari to study Gosvami books along with the Vaisnavas and then began to teach others. One day, Narottama with Ramacandra had been discussing the topic on Krsna. In the meantime, a distinguished brahmana came to Narottama and told him in crying, "Oh being proud, I told so many things against you to many students but on that particular day I had criticised you, I became a prey to the disease of leprosy. I took many medicines and performed many rituals, but alas, apart from cure, the disease began to aggravate day by day. I thought of committing suicide by jumping into the Ganges. In my dream, devi Bhagavti apeared and angrily told me, "You will face a serve

misfortune. Being proud, you have insulted Narottama by calling him a sudra. You are still a fool after studying so many scriptures. He who has taken Narottama as an ordinary man, has no chance of averting misfortune in any life. If he forgives you, then you will get rid of misfortune." Saying so, she disappeared. In the morning, I have come straight to you. First of all, I became afraid of facing you but a brahmana in my way told me that you are ever merciful. I looked at you from a distance but your merciful feature at once has cooled my eyes as if I have got back my life. Oh lord, be merciful to me. I am taking refuge to your feet." Saying so, the brahmana began to cry loudly. He fell on the ground to touch the feet of Narottama. Sri Thakur Mahasaya said, "You have done nothing to humiliate me." The brahmana said, "Do put your feet on my head, then a sinner's mind will be pacified." Narottama thinking of Sri Krsna Caitanya, embraced the brahmana. The brahmana being very glad took the dust of Narottama's feet and began to dance by raising his hands. After a long time, he became quiet but by that time his disease had gone and he became purified at long last. The feeling of love and devotion arose in the mind of the brahmana which led him to think, "This cure seems to me very dangerous. I hope I could get the disease again for this cure may create pride in my mind." So this thought made him a Vaisnava and his followers also became Vaisnavas too. This news spread all over the village which made all the brahmanas scared. They began to warn one another in this way, "Be careful in your behaviour about Narottama. Don't call Narottama a low caste person." Someone said, "Being proud of our brahmanism, we have failed to acknowledge a jewel like Narottama." Some one said, "There is no question of being a brahmana or a high caste person. Without his mercy, it is not possible to identify Him." Someone said, "Narottama is himself an abode of mercy. He by his own quality can save the sinners." Someone said, "So many qualities do not belong to an ordinary man. He is a man only in appearance. He is an incarnation to save the beings from damnation." The brahmana warned his followers by singing the glory of Narottama. Narottama's qualities were above any discussion. He used to visit Yajigrama from time to time to meet Acarya. I have elaborately discussed the meeting of Narottama and Acarya with Vira Hamvira in Bhaktiratnakara. So be patient in listening to Narottama Vilasa by Narahari.

THE TENTH VILASA

Glory to Gaura, Nityananda, Advaita and their associates. Be kind to this poor soul. Glory to the merciful listeners. Now listen, Sri Rama and Sri Raghunandana, two disciples of Acarya, came back from Vrndavana. They reported gladly to Thakur Mahasaya about the well being of Vraja. They told excitedly, "How can we describe the beauty of Radha Thakurani sent by Sri Janhava Isvari, she had created a magnificent glory by sitting in the left side of Gopinath who Himself had ordered the Gosvamis to do that. They had held a great festival on this occasion that we had seen by our own eyes. The Vaisnavas of Vraja had become mad in joy." Hearing this incident, all of them became very glad and Ramacandra requested those two to take their baths quickly. Sri Thakur Mahasaya with Ramacandra went gladly to take their bath in Padmavati. On their way, they saw two brahmana boys were coming with many cubs of goats, sheeps and buffaloes. Looking at them, Sri Mahasaya told Ramacandra that these two boys had fine devotional qualities for worshipping Krsna. Ramacandra began to discuss different scriptures in the presence of those two boys. The boys on hearing the discussion from some distance began to tell to each other, "Most probably these two Vaisnavas are Sri Thakur Mahasaya and Kaviraja. We have already heard about their glory. Today is an auspicious day that we can meet them now." Saying so, they put aside the cubs and came near to Ramacandra and Thakur Mahasaya with a heart swinging like a pendulum. Thakur Mahasaya sweetly asked them, "Who are you? Whose sons you are?" One boy told, "I am Harirama and he is my younger brother, Ramakrsna. Sivai Acarya is our father. He used to spend a lot of money on the occasion of Bhavani worship. Balarama Kaviraja is a good physician. Being ordered by our father, we came here to buy these cubs. My father believes that sacrifice of these cubs before the goddess will grant him the happiness of heaven." After saying so, he called on his men and ordered them to cross Padmavati leaving those cubs here. Being ordered by Harirama Acarya, they crossed the river without the cubs and these two brahmana boys. Harirama told Thakura Mahasaya, "True, we came here to buy the cubs, but now our visions have become cleaned by your teachings. Now be favorable to us and accept us and give once again the proof of your glory." Saying so the two brothers fell on the ground to touch his feet. Observing the humble disposition of these two brothers, both Thakur Mahasaya and Ramacandra became very much perturbed and embraced them. After taking bath, they took those boys to the temple of Prabhu most happily. That day was an auspicious day and Sri Kaviraja initiated Harirama. Thakura Mahasaya initiated Ramakrsna Acarya. Harirama and Ramakrsna were very fortunate because at once they could get the feeling of the unattachable identity of Ramacandra and Narottama. They fell prostrate on the feet of their religious masters who empowered their disciples to a great extent. They dedicated their disciples to the feet of Radhakrsna and Caitanya. They helped their disciples to know Sri Bhakti Sidhantas thoroughly. Harirama and Ramakrsna became mad in the juices of love and devotion. On

the eleventh day i.e. the day after Vijaya Dasami (the tenth day of the worship of goddess Bhavani), they asked for their farewell from their religious masters and came back to Goyasa village from Khetari. They first of all got Balarama Kaviraja and spent that night in his house. They told everything to Balarama who in turn reported everything about their father. In the morning they became face to face with their father. On seeing his sons, Sivai became fire with anger and shouted at them by saying, "Oh fools, which one among the scriptures has said that the Vaisnavas are superior to brahmanas? By offending Bhagavati, you have spoilt your lives. What type of Vaisnava he is that he made to accept defeat and humiliation before the society of scholars. I know I must be successful due the favor of Durga towards me. Thus further, he won't dare to do this." Harirama became furious and cried out again and again, "Let the Panditas come here and let me see their powers. They have to defeat me first otherwise all their shoutings will be proven fake." On hearing the utterances of his son, Sivai Acarya became impatient in anger and forced his son to appear before the Pandita Society. Harirama, proud like a lion, refuted all the explanations of the Panditas and established the superiority of devotion. He proved that the Vedas have said that the Vaisnavas are worshipped by all. The Panditas being defeated from all respects, began to stare at Harirama someone said, "How can he know all the scriptures." Another one replied, "From the favor of Vaisnavas, do you know the glory of Ramacandra and Narottama? These two brothers had obtained favor from those great Vaisnavas. No one can defeat them." The Panditas became ashamed and went back to their house after saying, "The Vaisnavas have power, no doubt." Out of blind anger, Sivai called forth Murari who was a world conquering scholar of Mithila. He was so proud of his knowledge that he used to look upon the other scholars like grass under his feet. He came with many students and supporters. Balarama Kaviraja very easily defeated him in the debate. Being defeated, he said, "It is impossible for me to grasp the limit of glory of the Vaisnavas." Saying so, he distributed all his belongings among others and took self-banishment by not going back to his own country. He accepted the life of a beggar. Sivai being ashamed, reached to the dying condition. He became very sorry for insulting the Vaisnavas. He was rightly served by goddess Bhagavati. The news of the people being converted into Vaisnvaism spread all over the countries. The Vaisnavas became very glad for this. Harirama and Ramakrsna Acarya gladly engaged themselves in nama-sankirtana. They became most apathetic towards material life, after getting the valuable wealth like devotion. They began to stay with Balarama Kaviraja being always engaged in singing the glory of Sri Krsna Caitanya. One day, one some personal purpose, the two brothers came to Gamvila village on the bank of Suradhuni (Ganga). That place had many scholars among whom Ganganarayana Cakravarti was the foremost one. He was a man of devotional disposition and had conquered the desire for material pleasure. He was a good teacher. Secretly he had been watching Harirama and Ramakrsna and began to think after observing their transcendental

brightness, "They were not like this before, but now what a change has come in them. Kaviraja and Sri Thakur Mahasaya had favored them for which they have become great Vaisnavas and great scholars in all scriptures. Many scholars had accepted defeat from them. Being ashamed the world-conqueror scholar became a beggars. These two brothers are very fortunate. He who had criticised Thakur Mahasaya, had been rightly served by Bhagavati. I, the worst brahmana, being proud of my knowledge had neglected him. The only way of my survival is to get favor from him. It is known that he is very merciful." Thinking in this way, Ganganarayana began to weep and to lament in this way, "There is no religion above Vaisnavism and worthless person like me get no interest in that religion. Fie, fie to my life. Without worshipping Krsna, I had spent the whole life on trifles. Oh, lord Narottama, help me to obtain love and devotion. I am taking refuge to your lotus feet." In lamentation, he spent most of the night. At late night, he fell asleep and dreamt of Thakur Mahasaya in shining glory and full of mercy. He was telling him smilingly, "You are my servant, don't lament. All your desires will be fulfilled. Tomorrow, at the time of your bath in the Ganges, you will see me. I have come here from Khetari. That time I shall talk to you." As he disappeared, Ganganarayana became very sad. In the morning, after quickly finishing his daily duties, he came on the bank of Ganga and sat there in silent prayer. Harirama and Ramakrsna came to that place. Cakravarty greeted them very humbly and told them, "Please do stay here for a few days with me. If I am fortunate enough to get prabhu here, please tell him about me." Most fortunately, Mahasaya with some disciples came to the bank of the Ganges. Harirama and Ganganarayana, "Look, prabhu by chance has come to take bath in the Ganges." Ganganarayana became highly satisfied because he found Thakur Mahasaya just the same, he had seen in his dream. Cakravarty asked Harirama about the identities of the Vaisnavas coming with Narottama. Harirama helped Ganganarayana to get the identities of them and moved forward to Narottama to give the identity of Ganganarayana. With a smile, Thakur Mahasaya said, "Bring Ganganarayana to me soon." Ganganarayana came with Harirama and fell on the feet of Narottama who in a trance of love, embraced Ganganarayana. In a sweet voice, he asked Ganganarayana, "Well, gentleman, won't the other brahmanas mind for your this type of behaviour? Ganganarayana said, "Oh my lord, if your favor goes to the poor soul, he never cares for those devotionless brahmanas." Saying so he worshipped the feet of Ramacandra. Ganganarayana was introduced to everybody. The people, out of astonishment whispered to one another, "We found him in Gamvila many times but what a surprise, he is now a completely changed person." Someone said, "He who was always proud of his knowledge, now how he has become so humble? Some one said, "How this type of devotion arose in him? It was totally impossible for him." Someone said, "Oh brothers, I think that everything has become possible due to the presence of this Mahasaya." Then everyone began to praise the fortune of Ganganarayana who being a staunch brahmana, had become a devout Vaisnava. Anticipating that

Ganganarayana was trying to tell something to him, Thakur Mahasaya told him, "Don't think anything else. After taking bath, I shall go to Vudhuri and tomorrow I shall go back to Khetari for I have some important busines to do in the temple of Gauranga. You should stay here today with Harirama and Ramakrsna and tomorrow you all should go to Vudhuri. There you can meet Karnapura and others. On the next morning you all should go to Khetari quickly." Saying so, after a quick bath, Mahasaya went to Vudhuri with others. Gauranganarayana, after his bath went to home with Harirama and Ramakrsna and stayed at Gamvila for that day. In the early morning they went to Vudhuri gladly and stayed in the house of Sri Govinda Kaviraja. Divyashimha, son of Govinda became astonished to observe the devotional efforts Ganganarayana. There, Karnapura Kaviraja and others were also present. In the morning they hastily came to Khetari and observed the image of Sri Gauranga. Ganganarayana prayed before Prabhu the fulfilment of his desire. That day they spent in the pleasure of sankirtana. On the next morning, after finishing bath and daily duties, Thakur Mahasaya thought that today was the most auspicious day to initiate Ganganarayana. So did he and dedicated Ganganarayana to the lotus feet of Sri Krsna Caitanya. Narottama who was an incarnation of devotion, empowered Ganganarayana with his own power. Being overwhelmed with joy, Ganganarayana could not check his tears and lay prostrate on the lotus feet of Narottama who took him to his bosom. Narottama dedicated Ganganarayana to Ramacandra. Ganganarayana worshipped the feet of Ramacandra, Govinda Kaviraja and others. All the Vaisnavas there became very happy. Ganganarayana, the genius of all scriptures, began to study the Gosvami books. He began to swim continuously in the stream of happiness derived from sankirtana. In this way, Ganganarayana achieved some extra high qualities of love and devotion. Jagannath Acarya who was a devout worshipper of Bhagavati, was ordered by her to take refuge to the lotus feet of Narottama. She told him, "Without worshipping Krsna, life is a futile one. Go and touch the feet of Narottama who will give you salvation." Being ordered by her, he in the next morning came to Khetari and fell on the feet of Thakur Mahasaya. With tears he told Thakur Mahasaya, "Being ordered by Bhagavati, I have come to you. Now I am at your feet. Oh lord, please initiate me and save me from damnation." Hearing this humble confession, Thakur Narottama initiated that brahmana. In this way, Narotama got many disciples. For this incident, some became happy while some became angry. There was a king in a distant place, named Narasimha who was a great patron of scholar brahmanas. One of those brahmanas angrily complained to the king, "There is no one to think about religion which is in stake now. Narottama dasa, son of Krsnananda Datta, had become a Vaisnava and now he is initiating the brahmanas. I don't know what type of a magician he is in doing all these miracles. If you say that he is a scholar, then my opinion is this it is his false pride before the ignorants. Will he dare to face us? Let us go to his place and let see the fun. I know he must make haste to flee from there. If you can accomplish this, you will be praised by all the countries for keeping the prestige

and superiority of the brahmanas. The king is the saviour and the only judge due to the order of God. Otherwise the brahmana class will be perished." On hearing this, the king made arrangements to go to Khetari with others among whom there was Rupanarayana also. The professors with many books started proudly. The king with his men halted at Kumarapura village near Khetari. Here, on getting the news of the king's coming, Mahasaya told Ramacandra slowly, "We have to face the professors and I know a great debate will occur." Ramacandra smiled and said, "They can be defeated very easily and will come to fall on your feet." Thus Ramacandra and Ganganarayana came to Kumarapura and took the guises of two shopkeepers. One of them became the seller of betel leaf shop to buy betel leaf. When he asked the price for betel leaf, the seller replied in sanskriti. The student accepted his defeat. The seller said, "You are a fool, you know nothing. If you want to keep your prestige, go and bring your teacher." The student being ashamed informed everything to his professor and said, "That young sellers of Khetari, the place of Narottama, are great scholars. If you want to defeat Narottama, first defeat these young sellers. Otherwise stop going to Khetari." Hearing this the Pandits became furious and ordered the student to guide them to that place. They began debate on different scriptures. Gradually Narasimha, Rupanarayana and many people came to that place to witness the battle of scriptures. The seller men began to refute one by one all the explanations given by the Pandita in a very polite way. Thus very easily the Panditas were defeated by the sellers. Someone said, "When the Panditas had come here they were just like lions. But now after defeat they have become dogs." Then the people began to sing the glory of Thakur Mahasaya. These hearsays made the king nervous. He asked Rupanarayana very slowly, "What is the way out now?" Rupanarayana said, "Vaisnavism is superior to all religions. Humiliating the Vaisnavas leads to the path of hell. Let us go and take refuge to his feet. Otherwise there is no way out from damnation." Narasimha said, "I am also thinking so. Let us go quickly." Rupanarayana said, "Stay here today. Tomorrow start with your men." This news spread all over that tomorrow the king with his men would go to Khetari. The condition of the professors was undoubtedly most miserable. They could not face the king due to shame. They confined themselves in a lonely place. They used to tell one another about the forthcoming situation they had to face tomorrow. Here after defeating the professors, the two shopkeepers started for Khetari. Ramacandra distributed the betel leaves among the poor and Ganganarayana also distributed his earthen materials among the poor villagers. Being satisfied, they returned to Khetari and reported everything to Thakur Mahasaya. Here King Narasimha began to think silently whether a wicked person like him would get the mercy of Thakur Mahasaya. In extreme lamentation, he told Rupanarayana, "My life will be totally futile unless I get his mercy." Certain invisible one throw the words, "He will forgive by his own forgiveful nature." The king became very much perturbed to hear this and began to wait for the morning in a swinging heart. How pity was the condition of the professors. The most proud

professor among them fell asleep at late night and saw in hi dream goddes Bhagavati with a sword in her hand. She told in an angry voice, "Oh you rogue, how futile is your whole life study. You will go to hell as you have criticised the Vaisnavas. I shall be satisfied if i sever you head. Oh wicked soul, I don't know how to give you a lesson. Only Narottama can save you from damnation." Then with blood-shot eyes, the goddess vanished. Waking up from sleep, the professor began to tremble in fear. He awakened others with a shout and told others, "Luckily I am saved. Bhagavati came to kill me as I had underestimated Narottama. Now only he can save me from the sufferings of the hell." In the morning, he went to report everything to the king. The king told, "I had forbade you before to criticise Narottama as an ordinary man. Is it possible for a human being to perform all these transcendental deeds? Sri Thakur Mahasaya is respected person to us all." Saying so, he consoled the pandita. After taking their baths, the king with all the professors started for Khetari on foot. Reaching Khetari, they hastily went to the courtyard of Gauranga. Being very humble, the king with others lay prostrate on the ground to bow Sri Gauranga. Ramacandra, the most wise person, with Govinda and others, took great care of them. All of them became very eager to meet Sri Thakur Mahasaya who had been sitting in a lonely place. After awhile, Sri Thakur Mahasaya came to that place and everyone had been observing his beauty. Knig Narasimha and Rupanarayana advanced forward first towards Narottama and said humbly, "Oh lord, how can we introduce ourselves. We are fully materialists and wicked persons. We are dedicating ourselves to you but we are afraid of telling anything to you. Please kindly initiate us and fulfil our desires." Saying so, they fell on his feet with tears in their eyes. Observing their perturbed condition, Thakur Mahasaya very affectionately consoled them and embraced them. Narasimha and Rupanarayana fell on the ground to touch his feet and at once all their agonies were vanished and they got extreme peace in their minds. The king brought that illustious professor to Narotama and said, "He is the head of the professors. His pride has gone and now forgive and favor him." That brahma stood before Mahasaya and sorrowfully reported about the anger of the goddess. He fell on the ground in crying and sought the refuge of Narottama. Sri Thakur Mahasaya, the image of mercy, favored him by embracing him. Then Ramacandra pacified him by lifting him from the ground. Then all of them became devotees of Krsna Caitanya. Thakur Mahasaya with all of them came to the courtyard of Prabhu and observed the waving light ceremony of Prabhu. Sri Santosa Raya most heartily took them to a house and brought many things for their eating. He most humbly requested them to cook their food but Narasimha and othres begged prasadam from Santosa Raya who most gladly granted this proposal. So Narasimha, Rupanarayana and others went to that place where Sri Tahkur Mahasaya with his followers had been sitting. How can I describe the divine pleasure they got in eating prasadam. Then they spent the whole day in extreme pleasure. On the next day, in an auspicious moment all of them took initiation from Sri Thakur Narottama who dedicated them

to the feet of Prabhu. Rupanarayana and others stayed there for a few days during which they began to study the Gosvami books. In due course of time all of them became possessors of love and devotion and extremely interested in doing sankirtana. They used to enjoy the songs written by Sri Govinda Kaviraja. They used to listen to Srimad Bhagavata from Ganganarayana Cakravarty. In this way, they forgot the difference between day and night. He who once came to Khetari forgot to go elsewhere leaving this type of divine pleasure. King Narasimha and Rupanarayana hurriedly went to their country to bring the queen Rupamala who was a devoted wife and a lady of beautiful disposition. Thakur Mahasaya became very happy to observe her beautiful nature and gave her initiation. Rupamala became so happy that she swears to take one lac Harinama in a day. Everyone began to sing the glory of Thakur Mahasaya. Haricandra Raya was a dacoit. He heard about the qualities of Thakur Mahasaya and came to take refuge to his feet. Thakur Mahasaya saved him from damnation by giving initiation. After initiation, he was renamed as Haridasa and became the possessor of precious jem like devotion. He gave his Zamindari of Jalapantha. Everyone became astonished to see the change in a dacoit. The people began to whisper, "Sri Thakur Mahasaya is a man of transcendental qualities by which he subdued a dacoit very easily. But Canda Raya is the most notorious of all dacoits. If he can overcome Canda Raya, the whole country can heave a sigh of relief." Someone said, "Don't worry, Canda Raya will soon be favored and with all his men will be great Vaisnavas. Due to that favor, he must give up his dacoity." In the meantime, one brahmana came to them to inform about the rescue of Canda Raya by Thakur Mahasaya. Canda Raya was a terror before but now his only appearance could give pleasure to the eyes. The brahmana further said, "I have seen in my own eyes that Canda Raya and his men are dancing in sankirtana on the courtyard of Prabhu." Hearing this miraculous incident, the people in a crowd went to see Canda Raya whom they found lying on the dust of the ground and his whole body was trembling with emotion. Everyone got relief for averting the tyranny of Canda Raya. In the meantime, some unknown persons with arms and weapons came to that place and asked the people how Canda Raya had become a Vaisnava. The people explained the whole event in nutshell. Canda Raya with his followers were devotees of goddess Bhagavati. Canda Raya was a powerful Zamindar and the head of the dacoits. Goddess Bhagavati became so angry upon him that she punished him with the help of a brahmana ghost. When again she found that Canda's life was at stake, she ordered him to take refuge to the feet of Narottama. Thakur Mhasaya favored him and rescued him from damnation. Canda Raya became a most humble Vaisnava. Taking advantage of his weakness, the Yavana king tried to torture him. But Canda Raya did not bother about his pains and remained loyal to the feet of Narottama. The Yavana king brought a mad elephant to kill Canda Raya but the elephant fled away instead of moving forward towards Canda Raya. Being highly disturbed the king ordered to imprison Canda Raya. Instead of being sad, Canda Raya thought gladly that he had been rightly served for his misdeeds. Someone

suggested him to cite hymns praising the goddess but Canda Raya refused to cite any other hymns than hymns of Lord Krsna. Observing his sincerity, Prabhu became so glad that due to him, the Yavana king became so afraid that he released Raya after begging to him. He came to Khetari to meet Thakur Mahasaya. Hearing all these incidents, the unknown persons, throwing out their weapons, lay prostrate on the ground before Thakur Mahasaya. Thakur Mahasaya asked them sweetly about their particulars. They replied in tears, "We are dacoits of Bengal and the most disgracing thing is that we are brahmanas and Canda Raya is our leader. We used to do dacoity on the river. This time we had come here to consult with Raya but we heard about the episode of Canda Raya from the people. Now we have changed our minds. Observing your lotus feet from distance, a sudden change came to our mind. We are wicked and robbers. Please save us from damnation." Now they began to cry miserably. In the meantime Canda Raya came to that place and all of them became very happy to see him. Canda Raya very humbly greeted them all. After a few days, Thakur Mahasaya initiated them all. If anyone listens to these episodes, can get rid of damnation. So be attentive to Narottama Vilasa by Narahari.

THE ELEVENTH VILASA

Glory to Gaura, Nityananda, Advaita and their associates favor the poor soul. Glory to the merciful listeners. Now listen to me. Kaviraja Thakur and Thakur Mahasaya wrote two separate letters in which they enclosed the songs written by Sri Govinda to Vrndavana very carefully. In reply from Vrndavana, they got the news of the well-being of that place. Thus galdly they conveyed this news to Yajigrama. At Yajigrama, Acarya with his students and followers used to spend the days in discussing about devotional scriptures. On knowing the efforts of Sri Narottama by which he had favored and saved many heretics and wicked dacoits, pleased Acarya to a great extent. He at once decided to go to Khetari. In the meantime, someone informed that Viravadra had come to their place. Being delighted, Acarya Thakur advanced forward to meet Viracandra who on seeing Acarya coming towards him, got down from his palaquin quickly. Acarya and his followers fell on the ground to show their respect to Viravadra who at once embraced Acarya and asked about his well being. Viracandra started walking slowly with Acary by holding the hand of Acarya. Acarya very hubly asked Viracandra Prabhu, "I thought one day at Khardaha that I will go to Khetari via Yajigrama. With my followers I had already visited the places of Nadia. Then I went to Sri Khanda and from there quickly I have come here." Saying so, he entered into a house and took his seat. The visit of Prabhu so delighted Acarya that it seemed to him as if the actual owner had come to his own place. Draupadi Isvari and Sri Gauranga-priya, wives of Acarya, bowed to the feet of Viracandra Prabhu. They washed the feet of Prabhu with cold water. The eldest son of Acarya, who had been named by Sri Jiva Gosvami as Vrndavana, was a boy of very beautiful intellect. Vrndavana with his two brothers, Radhksna and Sri Gitagovinda fell on the feet of Prabhu who blessed them very affectionately. He put his feet on the heads of the three respectively. The three daughters of Acarya, Hemlata, Krsnapriya and Sri Kancanlata were very devotional minded. They also bowed to the feet of Prabhu Viracandra who blessed them too. Prabhu asked about their well being very sweetly and the three girls spontaneously dedicated themselves to the feet of Prabhu. After sometime, prabhu with his followers went to take bath. Here, the wives of Acarya quickly took their bath and started cooking for prabhu various items of food. They decorated the rice place with scented rice and other items. One wise disciple of Acarya offered food first to Salagrama Candra and also to that Govardhana Sila given by Prabhu Nityananda to Viracandra. The two Thakuranis decorated the rice plates for two Prabhus. After the eating of Govardhana Sila and Sri Vansivadana, the priest offered the water for washing mouth. Then he offered betel leaves to them. After that they went to bed. Here after back from the river, Viracandra and his followers took

their seats for eating by sitting in the courtyard of Gauranga. Prabhu Viracandra told Sri Acarya to sit with him and to take food. Acarya Thakur said humbly, "It is not fair to sit with you for eating for I want to eat after you all." Hearing this, prabhu caught Acarya's hand and said with a smile, "There is no one to blame you if you sit by my side and take food with me." Acarya was unable to violate prabhu's request. Thus he sat with prabhu Viracandra. Everyone became charmed to observe the beauty of all the great Vaisnavas sitting in a row. Banana leaves were placed before them and prabhu ordered to serve the food. They wives of Acarya began to serve food. Sridasa, Gokulananda and Vyasa decorated the plates filled with bowls full of delicious curries. All of them with Viracandra ate most happily. After eating, they washed their mouths and took betel leaves. Prabhu took rest a little and then spent the rest of day and night in discussing about Krsna. In the morning, Sri Viracandra with Acarya started for Khetari most gladly. All of them reached Vudhuri via Kantakanagara. Govinda and others getting the news of their coming, had been waiting on the path. Viracandra Prabhu with Acarya and others met Govinda and others on the way. Govinda most gladly took them to the house. Viracandra and Acarya became very pleased to get beautiful resting places and delicious food. They stayed two days at Vudhuri. All the Vaisnavas of that place, came to meet prabhu, Acarya and others. After taking bath in Padmavati River, all of them crossed the river and most happily moved towards Khetari. On knowing the coming of Prabhu, Thakur Mahasaya ordered his cooks to prepare various items of food. He collected different kinds of fruits and sweets. He ordered his men to clean the house's. Then he with his men stood on the road and waited for Prabhu. Prabhu with his followers appeared just like the million moons to soothe the heat of the sun. Thakur Mahasaya advanced forward and bowed to the feet of Viracandra. Prabhu embraced Narottama. Who could not hold his tears and touched the feet of prabhu again and again. Acarya Thakur and Sri Thakur Mahasaya took prabhu to the courtyard and temple of Gauranga. They observed the images of Gauranga, Vallabhikanta, Sri Vrajamohana, Radhakrsna, Radhakanta, Sri Radharamana. Viracandra could not control his tears after observing the beautiful images. He fell on the ground again and again to bow to the images. When he checked his emotion, the priest gave him the offered garland of Prabhu. Acarya Thakur then very carefully took him to the house. The priest also gave offered garlands to all the Vaisnavas who came with Viracandra. The people of Khetari came to see prabhu Viracandra. On their way back to their houses, one said to another, "Nityananda is Balarama himself and prabhu Viravadra is his son and is an abode of qualities. His beautiful feature can increase the thirst of the eyes to see him again." Someone said, "We are very fortunate to have the chance of seeing him most easily." Someone said, "All these have become possible only due to Sri Thakur Mahasaya." Here Viracandra took his seat with his followers in the beautiful house. Acarya Thakur told very sweetly to Viracandra prabhu, "Your food is ready because it has been prepared before your coming to the

house." Prabhu took out his Govardhana Sila from his cloth bag and offered food before Him. After His eating, he again put Him in his cloth bag. Then varieties of prasadam came from the temple. Prabhu told Acarya, "Now I am hungry. So let us not waste time." He with all his followers sat down to eat. Harirama, Ramakrsna, Ganganarayana, Sri Govinda Cakravarti and others began to serve various items of food to Viracandra and other Vaisnavas. Due to the superb taste of all items, prabhu and others ate too much. Then they washed thier mouths. After that Acarya Thakur with his follwoers began to discuss about Radhakrsna and Caitanya and in this way they spent the whole day and night. In the morning, prabhu took his bath. Then Sri Santosa stood before prabhu with a beautiful cloth in his hand and requested prabhu to wear it. He also offered new clothes to all the Vaisnava followers of prabhu. Prabhu then decorated his Govardhana Sila with flowers, sandalpaste and Tulasi and offered food before Him. Then he distributed the prasadam among all. After them prabhu ate himself. With the permission of prabhu, Acarya and Thakur Mahasaya decided to start sankirtana. On hearing the announcement of sankirtana, people from every corner of Khetari came running to throng all around the courtyard. In the afternoon, after Viracnдра's coming with his associates to the courtyard of Gauranga, the Utthvapana arati ceremony took place. The priest gave him the garland and sadal offerings. Acarya delightfully decorated prabhu with sandalpaste and flower garlands and began to weep in joy to observe the beauty of prabhu. Thakur Mahasaya with other singers and instrumentalists started sankirtana gladly. Within a second the whole atmosphere changed into a divine like feelings. Devidasa started playing khola and kartala. Gokula started singing nectar like kirtana, the sound of which pierced the heaven. The voice of Sri Mahasaya led to the ocean of happiness to overflow its bank. Viracandra amidst the group of Vaisnavas began to shine like the sun. He in his beautiful feature began to dance magnificently with the music and kirtana. With raised hands he began to utter "Haribola" very sweetly. His big deep eyes began to shed tears of joy. His restless lotus like fet began to move very beautifully. The gods began to move very beautifully. The gods began to shower flowers upon the heads of the Vaisnavas. Prabhu Vriacandra in the hope of dancing with al of them, began to stare here and there. In the meantime, he found that Sri Acarya with his follwers were dancing by his side. The earth began to tremble by the feet steppings of the dancers. Gradually all of them forgot their own entities and began to roar like lions. Someone began to tremble out of trance. Someone began to hold the feet of Viracandra. Someone began to roll on the ground out of ecstasy. Prabhu out of ecstasy tightly embraced Narottama and did not let him go out of his embrace. Sometimes he began to caress the face of Gokula. Sometimes he began to praise Sri Govinda Kaviraja for his songs. Then he began to encourage Gokula to sing more. Sri Gokula thus began to sing more beautifully the songs written by Sri Govinda in a very expert manner. In this way mid-night came. Then they stopped sankirtana and took their seats in the courtyard of Gauranga. In the morning

all the Vaisnavas came to the house of Viracandra who requested Ramacandra to sing the songs of Sri Rasa Vilasa. Ramacandra's voice was just like nectar. His beautiful analisation of Bhagavatam highly pleased Viracandra. Viracandra told Acarya, "I am afraid, can I meet you all again and have this valuable company of yours." Saying so, he began to weep. Acarya also began to weep with him. Somehow they checked their emotions and then Sri Rupa Ghataka, Ganganarayana, Syamadasa, Govinda and others brought fruit and sweets offerings for Sri Govardhana Sila. Prabhu offered them to Him. After that he offered betel leaves to Him and then put Him in a gold casket inside his cloth bag. After observing the image of Sri Gauranga, they all took prasadam. Prabhu then took some rest and after that he told Acarya, "I want to back to Khardaha via Ekacakra. Tomorrow morning I have decided to start. You should go with me for some distance." Acarya said, "Who will stand before your decision? Do what you want to do." Prabhu Viracandra said with a smile, "I cannot turn down your request. I have just tell you about my programme, now do what you think better." Acarya told Narottama, "Tomorrow, prabhu will leave Khetari with me." Hearing this Thakur Mahasaya became very much perturbed and Acarya pacified him. He ordered SAntosa to make arrangements for prabhu's going. He ordered Thakur Kanai to pack the things what they would send with prabhu. He ordered Rupa Ghataka to pack the things what Acarya would carry. He sent a messenger to Vudhuri very quickly and ordered his men to arrange a large number of boats for prabhu on the bank of Padmavati. Next morning, prabhu Viracandra with Acarya and others stood before Gauranga. Then prabhu returned to his house where many persons came to say farewell to prabhu. Prabhu thenh started for the bank of Padmavati. The disciples of Thakur Mahasaya very humbly touched the feet of Prabhu Viracandra who blessed them all. Viracandra consoled Thakur Mahasaya and Ramacandra Kaviraja in variuos ways and took leave of them for some months. Acarya also consoled the villagers of Khetari. Then he with Viracandra boarded on the boat. Ramacandra and others also took another boat. The boatmen started the boats. The remaining Vaisnavas along with Thakur Mahasaya who had been standing on the bank of Padmavati started crying loudly. Viracandra with his followers reached Vudhuri by crosing Padmavati. With a clouded heart, Thakur Mahasaya returned to the temple of Gauranga. All of them observed Gauranga, Vallabhikanta, Sri Vrajamohana, Radhakanta, Radhakrsna and Sri Radharamana whose faces at once removed the clouds from their minds. Thakur Mahasaya with others quickly took their baths and then ate mahaprasadam. They spent that day in discussing about Krsna. But since that day, Thakur Mahasaya became quite restless. After a few days, Ramacandra came from Yajigrama. Thakur Mahasaya became very glad to get back Ramacandra and became engaged in sankirtana for the days and nights with Govinda and others in the courtyard of Gauranga. Even king Narasimha and Canda Raya joined them in that wave of happiness. After a few days, Thakur Mahasaya told his disciples, "For a long time you have not gone to your own houses. This time pay a quick visit to your places." Though no one really wanted to leave Thakur Mahsaya, yet

being ordered by him, they had to start for their houses. Only Ramacandra stayed with him. One day, sitting in a lonely place, Thakur Mahasaya and Ramacandra discussed something secret. Ramacandra Kaviraja after sometimes, went to Yajigrama with a perturbed mind. A message came from Yajigrama that Sri Acarya Thakur had gone to Vrndavana with Ramacandra Kaviraja. Who could understand the mind of those two? One day Sri Mahasaya could not control his mind and began to lament for some unprecedented happenings. He began to sing:

The associates of Gauranga, are Srinivasa, Gadadhara,

Narahari, Mukunda, Murari.

Svarupa Damodara, Haridasa, Vakresvara

are possessors of divine love.

The sports what they had performed

could melt the stone,

but how unfortunate I am

for not able to witness them.

I failed to be born at that time and remained ignorant,

how can I forget this sorrow?

Prabhu Sanatana, Rupa, Raghunath Bhatta,

Bhugarbha, Srijiva, Loka-nath,

all these prabhus did beautiful sports

in Vrndavana with other devotees.

Now all of them have disappeared, leaving this world empty,

my eyes have become blind

to whom I shall disclose my sorrow?

thus I am living like an animal

Acarya Srinivasa to whom I got the refuge

and whose words used to cool my mind,

he also has left me, and Ramacandra is absent,

how can I live without them?

The sorrows which I am bearing in my mind,

cannot be told to others.

So I have lost interest in my own life.

The food I used to eat is just like poison to me,

Yet I am still living

Then what is the value of Narottama dasa?

At that moment, the news came to him that Ramacandra Kaviraja had disappeared from the world. Sri Thakur Mahasaya completely broke down and ran to a dense forest. He began to cry loudly and lamented for Ramacandra. His voice became choked and he fell on the ground. King Narasimha, Rupanarayana, Sri Govinda, Santosa, could do nothing to pacify him. They could only cry along with Thakur Mahasaya. Due to the wish of Prabhu, he pacified himself after a long time. After 5-7 days, he decided to go for a bath in the Ganges. So some of his disciples very carefully took him to Vudhuri and from there to Gamvila near the bank of the Ganges. Suddenly he got tremendous temperature and he ordered his disciples to prepare a pyre for him. Then he remained completely silent. His disciples became completely at a loss. Ganganarayana pacified others many brahmana panditas came to meet him but he did not speak

to them. In this state, he spent three days. He remained detached from the people. His disciples bathed him in the Ganges and placed him on a celestial seat on the pyre. The brahmanas began to jeer at Narottama by saying in this way, "This is the result of his effort of making brahmanas, his disciples. Now Narottama is dying after losing the power of speaking. Ganganarayana being a brahmana has become his disciple after discarding the customs of a brahmana. Now he is witnessing the condition of his religious master. We don't know what is expecting for him also." In this way, they began to throw the arrows of words towards Ganganarayana. Instead of being angry, Ganganarayana felt sorry for those heretics. He came and stood before the pyre with folded hands and prayed to Narottama, "You had saved many heretics before. This time these heretics being ignorant of your power, are criticising you. Your disciples are feeling very sad to hear their bad words. Please be favorable to them and save them from damnation." On hearing the helpless utterances of Ganganarayana Mahasaya again came back into sense. He got up on the pyre uttering "Radhakrsna Caitanya" and came out of the pyre abhining like the sun. The people around him began to shout Haribola. Suddenly the gods began to shower flowers on him. The now-believer brahmanas watching everything from distance became horrified. They began to repent for their evil mentality. With tears in their eyes, they fell on the feet of Ganganarayana and asked for mercy. Being moved by their prayers, Ganganarayana went to Mahasaya and requested him to forgive those brahmanas. The brahmanas then fell on the feet of Narottama and completely surrendered themselves after confessing all their sins. Thakur Mahasaya became so moved that he at once embraced them and empowered them with devotion. He ordered them to study devotional books to Ganganarayana. He then told everybody, "After few days I shall go to Khetari and you all should go with me. Today I shall go to Vudhuri." Saying so he quickly took bath in the Ganges. This incident spread all over the country. From the bank of the Ganges, Mahasaya with others went to the house of Ganganarayana. There they ate prasadam. Then he started for Vudhuri very gladly. He went back to Khetari with Sri Govinda, Kaviraja, Karnapura, Kaviraja Gokula, Vallabhi Majumdar and others and remained engaged on the topics of Krsna. Narottama used to serve the Prabhus all the time. Sometimes he used to roll in the dust of the courtyard of Gauranga and used to pray to the Prabhu in this way, "Oh Lord Gauranga, Vallabhi Kanta Krsna, be merciful to me like a materialist. Oh Lord, Radhakanta, Sri Vrajamohana, let me get rid of the agonies of this material world. Oh Lord, Radharamana, let me lie under your feet and do help me to remember you in this life and life after death." In this way, he used to lament everyday. In order to avoid crowd, he used to enter into the dense forest and cry out loudly, "Oh Lord Gauranga Sundara, the son of Navadvipa, oh Lord Nityanadna, son of Padmavati, oh Lord Advaita, the husband of Sita, oh Lord Sri Pandita Gadadhara, the abode of love, oh Lord, Pandita Srivasa, the ocean of mercy, oh lords Vakresvara, Sri Murari, Haridasa, Sri Svarupa, Ramananda, Damodara, Sri Acarya Gopinath, Kasisvara, oh lords, Vacaspati, Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya,

oh lords Suryadasa, Gauridasa, oh Sri Pandita Jagadisa Suklamvara, oh Sri Govinda Ghosa, dasa Gadadhara, oh Pundarika Vidyanidhi Mahasaya, Mukunda, Madhava, Vasu Ghosa, Dhananjaya, oh Sri Jagadananda, Sankara, Sridhara, oh Sri Mukunda, Narahari, oh Sri Rupa, Sanatana, Sri Bhugarbha, Lokanath, oh Sri Gopala Bhatta, Raghunath Bhatta, oh Svarupa Raghunath, the dwellers of Sri Kunda, oh Sri Jiva Gosvami and oh the devotees of Gaura Nityananda, be merciful to me, I am at your feet. Don't neglect me because I am a sinner. Please fulfill my desires." With these prayers his eyes began to shed continuous tears. He began to roll on the ground. He began to pray to Sri Govinda, Gopinath, Madanamohana, Radha Damodara, Sri Radharamana, Radhavinoda and the Queen of Vrndavana. He also prayed to Lalita, Visakha, Sucitra, Sri Campakalatika, Rangadevi, Sudevi, Tungavidya, Indulekha, Sri Rupamanjari, Ratimanjari, Kasturi, Lavangamanjari, Manjulalii to help him to stay under the feet of Radharani. He prayed to Sri Radha, "Oh Sri Radharani, Krsna is yours, you are always engaged in his service. Please give me the chance of worshipping you both. I want to place you on a jewelled throne and I shall fan you at that time. Being directed by the sakhis, I shall offer betel leaves to your moon like mouths. Will any desires be fulfilled?" Saying so, he sighed. Then he tried to remember the sports of Gauranga with his associates in Nadia. Observing the restless state of mind of Thakur Mahasaya, Sri Radhavallabha became very anxious. Sometimes Thakur Mahasaya used to console his dear disciples and used to concentrate them in sankirtana. One day he asked his disciples about the delay of Ganganarayana in coming to Khetari. In the meantime, Ramakrsna and Ganganarayana came with those brahmanas. All of them bowed to the feet of Thakur Mahasaya and expressed their desires of being initiated by Thakur Mahasaya. Thakura Mahasaya became glad. He initiated some of them and some of them got initiation from Ganganarayana. After that, all of them went to the courtyard of Gauranga. The priest gave them offered garlands. Sri Govinda Kaviraja and others became satisfied to observe the sincere efforts of the brahmanas. Sri Sankar Bhattacharya and other brahmanas very humbly bowed to the feet of the Vaisnavas. On the next day, a great festival took place. The brahmanas became mad in sankirtana. One day, Mahasaya in the morning, began to shed tears helplessly with fire like sighs. He lay down on the ground for sometime and his lotus face became dry. He with a chocked voice, began to lament in this way,

"How cruel is the providence to me, where Srinivasa has gone after giving me so much pain.

I had Ramacandra but he also had left me and I cannot hear a word from him any longer.

Can I have him again in my life,

my life has become futile.

Svarupa Rupa Sanatana Raghunath, the merciful and the Bhattas, be kind to me.

Acarya Srinivasa whose servant is Ramacandra

can I have them again.

Without observing their faces my heart is getting pierced,

just like a doe pierced by poisonous arrow.
I kept some jewels hidden under my cloth, who has stolen them
why Narottama is suffering so much misery?"
Saying so, he kept mum and everyone became aware of some unforeseen
incidents. On knowing the state of mind of his dear disciples,
Mahasaya consoled them all. Thakur Mahasaya came to the courtyard
of Gauranga and dedicated himself once again to the feet of Prabhu.
He started for Vudhuri with Govinda and others. He stayed one day
at Vudhuri and Sri Govinda Cakravarti and others came to meet him.
After talking very sweetly with them, Mahasaya spent the day and
night in sankirtana. From Vudhuri, he quickly moved to Gamvila.
After taking bath in the Ganges, he sat in the water and ordered
Ramakrsna and Ganganarayana to massage his body. But there was no
chance of massaging his body because only the touch of their hands,
Thakur Mahasaya's body melted like milk and vanished in the Ganges.
Suddenly the river became turbulent. Everyone became puzzled at
this. The gods began to shower flowers from the heaven on seeing
this type of disappearance. The cry of Hari Hari filled the air.
The disciples of Sri Mahasaya went to the house of Ganganarayana
and very patiently they kept themselves calm and quiet. Sri
Govinda Kaviraja and others quickly arranged for a funeral ceremony
at Gamvila. Then they went hastily to Khetari via Vudhuri. There
king Narasimha, Rupanarayana, Krsnasimha, Canda Raya, Sri
Gopiramana, Sri Govinda, King Santosa and others started
preparations for a great festival. Due to the fear of exaggeration,
I restrain myself from describing the festival in toto but when
they started sankirtana in the courtyard of Gauranga, within a
short time, Devidasa, Gauranga, Gokula, Sri Govinda Kaviraja and
others forgot their own entities. They began to roll of the
ground. They began to roar like lions and they began to soak the
ground with their tears. Suddenly due to the favor of guru, Krsna
and Vaisnavas, everyone witnessed Narottama dancing with them.
When he vanished everyone lost their patience. So Narotatma agian
appeared and consoled them all. Who can realise the qualities of
Thakur Mahasaya? So to get his favor, be attentive to Narottama
Vilasa, narrating by Narahari.

THE TWELVTH VILASA

Glory to Gaura, Nityananda, Advaita and their associates. Be kind to this poor soul. Glory to the merciful listeners. Who will have the power of describing how many disciples were made by Sri Thakur Mahasaya. There were many branches and twigs of Sri Mahasaya. Now an ignorant person like me is trying to narrate some of them. Please don't find out any fault on my part and be kind to me who is always at your service. Glory to the disciples of Sri Mahasaya to whom Gaura, Nityananda and Advaita are the life. Glory to Sri Pujari Balarama who is full of devotiona and with whom Prabhu is satisfied. Glory to Cakravarti Sri Gopiramana to whom Gauracandra and his associates are the life. Glory to Sri Acarya Ramakrsna, the mine of qualities whose branches and twigs covered the whole world. Glory to Sri Pujari Ravi Raya who used to get extreme pleasure in serving the Vaisnavas. Glory to Cakravarti Ganganarayana who also has many disciples. Glory to Radhavallabha Caudhuri who bound Sri Thakur Mahasaya by his love. Ramakanta is the elder brother of Sri Mahasaya and Sri Radhavallabha is the son of Ramakanta. Glory to Sri Ghosa who songs charmed Sri Thakur Mahasaya. Glory to Krsna Sinha who is better known as Sinha Vikrama. He is always mad in love and an expert in music. Glory to Sri Santosa Raya whose service highly charmed Sri Thakur Mahasaya. Thakur Mahasaya is very affectionate towards Sri Govinda Kaviraja who through his songs expressed the conceptions of Thakur Mahasaya. Being requested by Santosa, Kaviraja gladly wrote a drama named Sangita Madhava. Glory to king Sri Govindarama whose tongue used to chant Harinama always. Glory to Sri Vinoda Raya who used to dance madly in sankirtana. Glory to Phagu Coudhuri, a great scholar whose songs used to charm the Gandharvas. Glory to great scholar Sri Casanta Raya who is always absorbed in the sports of Radha Krsna Caitanya. Glory to Sri Sitala Raya whose calm disposition always charms the Vaisnavas. Glory to prabhu Ramadatta whose eyes always used to shed tears of love. Glory to apathetic Dharmadasa Caudhuri who practises firm belief in the Vaisnavas. Glory to Nityanandadasa who is mad in love for Prabhu Nityananda. Glory to Candidasa, an abode of qualities, who is kind to the wicked and also the poor. Glory to Dhiru Caudhuri whose qualities used to make the animals and birds cry. Glory to Vonka Ramabhadra, a great humourous person. Glory to the friend of the poor, Ramabhadra Raya. Glory to Rupanarayana whose songs used to melt everyone's heart. Glory to Janakivallabha Caudhuri Thakur. Glory to Sri Srimanta Datta Bhandari, Glory to Rupanaryana Pujari Thakur. Glory to apathetic Vasinava Carana. Glory to broad minded Sivarama dasa. Glory to Krsnadasa Vairagi Thakur, Glory to king Narasimha. Glory to Queen Rupamala. Glory to Canda Raya, Glory to Narayana Raya, Glory to Ramacandra Raya, Glory to kirtana singer Devidasa whose songs maddens the Vaisnavas. Glory to Radhakrsna Bhattacharya of Navadvipa. Glory to wise Sri Thakur Krsnadasa, Glory to Catna Ramadasa. Glory to Sankara Visvasa. Glory to great singer Gandharva Raya. Glory to Madana Raya, son of Gandharva Raya. Glory to Gangadasa Raya. Glory to instrumentalist Gauranga dasa whose mrdanga playing removes the agony of everybody. Glory to Sri

Acarya Jayakrsna. Glory to Varu Caitanyadasa. Glory to Vraja Raya. Glory to Radhakrsna dasa. Glory to Krsna Raya. Glory to Thakur Sri Dayarama dasa. Glory to Sri Purusottama. Glory to great singer Gokula dasa. Glory to Haridasa whose only desire is to live in Navadvipa. Glory to Ganga Haridasa. Glory to Sri Thakur Haridasa. Glory to Sri Jagata Raya. Glory to singer Rupa Raya. Glory to Dhiru Caudhuri, Glory to Sri Kanta. Glory to Sri Mathura dasa. Glory to Sri Bhagavata dasa. Glory to Jagadisa Raya. Glory to Thakur Sri Mahesa Caudhuri. Glory to Ganesa Caudhuri. Glory to Candrasekhara. Glory to Sri Govinda Raya. Glory to Narottama Majumdar, Glory to Sri Sri Sankara Bhattacharya. Glory to Sri Gosvami dasa. Glory to Sri Murari dasa. Glory to Sri Vasanta Datta. Glory to Thakur Sri Syama dasa. Glory to Sri Jayagopala Datta. Glory to Ramadeva Datta. Glory to Gangadasa Datta. Glory to Manohara Ghosa. Glory to Sri Mukuta Maitra. Glory to Sri Manohara Visvasa. Glory to Sri Arjuna Visvasa. Glory to Sri Govardhana Bhandari. All glories to Sri Valakadasa Vairagi Thakur, Sri Gaurangadasa Vairagi. Sri Viharidasa Vairagi Thakur, Sri Gkuldasa Vairagi, Sri Prasada dasa Vairagi. There is no limit in describing the qualities of all these Vaisnavas. Their fame spread all over the world. I hope I could worship them and sing their glory without any attraction towards material pleasure. Now I shall narrate the twigs. Ramakrsna Acarya has a big branch having many disciples. Kanakalatika is the wife of Sri Acarya. She is a devoted wife and a great devotee of Krsna. Radhakrsnacarya, the eldest son of Acarya died at an early age. Radhakrsna Cakravarti of Vetula is a great devotee. Sri Svarupa Cakravarti of Husanapura is a sincere servant of Sri Govinda. Sri Gopala Cakravarti of Kumarapura whose topic is on everyone's lips. There is no limit of the branches and twigs to whom Sri Krsna Caitanya is the life. Ganganarayana is the branch of Sri Thakur Mahasaya. Ganganarayana got the title of Sri Thakur Cakravarti. Everyone used to sing his glory even today in Vrndavana. He has many branches and twigs of disciples. Narahari, wife of Sri Cakravarti is the mother of Visnupriya. Krsnapriya, daughter of Visnupriya is favored by Sri Radharani of Sri Radha Kunda. Sri Krsna Carana cakravarti is the youngest son of Ramakrsna Acarya. How can I sing the glory of Sri Krsnacarana. Ii am trying to present a brief account of his branches and twigs. Rama Krsna and Ganganarayana are the same entity. Sri Thakur Cakravarti has no son. Acarya realising his desire, favored Ganganarayana by giving a son. And that son is Sri Krsnacarana, son of Sri Acarya. Sri Krsnacarana became a great scholar in a short time. Sri Madhusudana Cakravarti is another branch to whom Ganganarayana is the life. Raghudeva Cakravarti is a great devotee of Sri Cakravarti Thakur for the fear of exaggeration, I restrain myself from narrating all the branches and twigs of Sri Cakravarti Thakur. The branches of disciples of Sri Mahasaya are abodes of qualities who always used to absorb in the pleasure if sankirtana. I have no capacity of describing the transcendental sports of Sri Thakur Mahasaya. I only depend on the grace of the Vaisnava Gosvamis. Thus be attentive to Narottama Vilasa by

Narahari.

NAROTTAMA THAKURA

FROM THE BIOGRAPHIES

65. NAROTTAMA THAKURA: (GVA, GPC)

Kayastha by caste, Narottama was the son of King Krsnananda Datta. Krsnananda was the Zamindar of Gopalpur Pargana in the Rajsahi district of Bangladesh. His capital was located at Kheturi, about a mile northeast of Prematali on the bank of the river Padma, about a distance of twelve miles northwest of Rampur Boalia. Narayani devi was Narottama's mother.

Narottama was born about the middle of the fifteenth Saka century (BRK. 1.466-468). From his childhood he was extremely attracted to Lord Caitanya. According to some, after the death of his father, Narottama entrusted his elder paternal uncle's son, Santos Datta, with the responsibility of the royal duties and left for Vrndavana.

Premavilasa 8 narrates as follows: One day while dancing in kirtana at Kanair Natsala village, Lord Caitanya suddenly began calling out the name, "Narottama, Narottama." Tears streamed from the Lord's eyes and He appeared to be restless. After speaking with Nityananda Prabhu the Lord expressed His desire to visit Gaderhat on the bank of the Padma. Mahaprabhu explained to Nityananda that he wanted to deposit the treasure of love of Godhead on the bank of the Padma for Narottama to pick up later. The river Padma then asked the Lord how she would be able to identify Narottama, and the Lord explained that the person whose touch would make her surge up would be none other than Narottama.

At the age of twelve Narottama had a dream in which Nityananda Prabhu appeared to him and commanded that he collect the prema which was left in the custody of the river Padma. Early in the morning Narottama went alone to the river Padma to take his bath. As soon as his feet touched her, the river surged forth. Remembering the words of Lord Caitanya the Padma now transferred the treasure to Narottama.

Upon receiving this divine love Narottama's bodily complexion changed. His parents tried every means by which keep him with them, but Narottama was drunk with the nectar of Lord Caitanya and Nityananda and could not be kept in check. Leaving behind all worldly bondage Narottama rushed for Vrndavana. Premavilasa 11 explains how Narottama was comforted by the divine touch of Rupa and Sanatana Gosvami, and how he received the grace of his spiritual master Lokanatha Gosvami.

After Narottama was initiated by Lokanatha Gosvami, he

received all instructions regarding the practice of spiritual life. Narottama was spiritually named Campakamanjari.

With the approval of the local Vaisnavas, Jiva Gosvami deputed Srinivasa, Narottama and Syamananda to carry the Gosvamis books to the devotees in Gauda. Although they were properly escorted by protected vehicles and guards, the books were stolen near Vanavishnupur. Srinivasa then sent Narottama to Kheturi and Syamananda to Utkala.

Narottama is widely believed to be the incarnation of Nityananda Prabhu. Narottama established his asrama, named Bhajantuli, about two miles away from the capital of Kheturi. Sometime after his return from Vrndavana, Narottama installed six Deities; Lord Gauranga, Vallavikanta, Lord Krsna, Lord Vrjamohan, Lord Radhmohan and Lord Radhakanta. On the occasion of this installation ceremony Narottama held a grand festival at Kheturi, which is famous amongst all Vaisnavas.

Narottama was the first exponent of the Garanhati tradition of kirtana. He arranged this musical tradition in a way as to accommodate all parsad (associates) of both prakata and aprakata lila of Lord Gauranga, which gave immense pleasure to the audience.

Ramacandra Kaviraja was a very close companion of Narottama throughout his life (See Bhaktiratnakara and Narottamavilasa for details on Narottama's biography.

Among the writings of Narottama, Prarthana and Premabhakticandrika are the most well-known. The brief write-up titled 'Hatapaltana' is also attributed to Narottama but the contents do not seem to be in harmony with historical events and thus some believe that it is a fake work. From evidence in older manuscripts Haridasa dasa has concluded that the real author was one Ramesvar dasa. Some argue that Narottama wrote Siddhabhakticandrika, Sadhyapremabhakti, Camtakar candrika, etc., but these are not published works and the few mss. which are available do not seem to be in Narottama's writing style. Narottama did translate Smaranamangala into Bengali verse. In eleven slokas this work describes the pastimes of Radha Krsna in eight parts of the day (Astakaliya).

See the following Bengali books for further information on Narottama:

1. Narottama dasa O Tahar Racamavali by Niradprasad Nath, Calcutta University, Calcutta.
2. Narottama Dasa by Rammohan Mallik
3. Narottama Thakura Kheturir Nitai by Narendranath Cattopadhyay
4. Narottama-lila va Sri Gaura Premavatara by Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Gosvami

The following is a narration describing the disappearance of Thakura Mahasaya: Narottama Thakura was always engaged in the singing the glories of Sri Gaura and Nityananda. Through his preaching many fallen souls were purified.

After taking permission from Narottama, Sri Ramcandra Kaviraja went to Sri Vrndavana, a few months thereafter he breathed his last. When Srinivasa Acarya heard this he could not bear the shock and after a few day he too died. When this news reached Srila Thakura, he was overwhelmed with grief and began singing in a choked voice. He gathered all the devotees around him in the temple of Sri Mahaprabhu and started sankirtana. Slowly the sankirtana party proceeded to the bank of the Ganga. With eyes full of tears, Narottama fell prostrate on the ground and entered into the Ganga to take bath. Sitting knee deep in the water he continued singing loudly, along with Sri Ramakrsna Acarya and Sri Ganganarayana Cakravarti. Narottama requested that they massage his body as he continued singing. As they massaged him, Thakura Mahasaya's body simply merged with the sacred water of the Ganga. Thus on the fifth day of the dark fortnight in the month of Kartika (Oct.-Nov.) he entered into the eternal pastimes of the Lord.

FROM CAITANYA CARITAMRTA

Adi, Chapter One Summary (as spiritual master of Visvanatha Cakravarti)

The direct disciple of Srila Krsnadasa Kaviraja Gosvami was Srila Narottama dasa Thakura, who accepted Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti as his servitor...

Adi 5.20 Purport (cited on developing spiritual vision)

Srila Narottama dasa Thakura, a great acarya in the preceptorial line of Lord Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, has said for our benefit that one can perfectly see the dhamas only when one completely gives up the mentality of lording it over material nature. One's spiritual vision develops proportionately to one's giving up the debased mentality of unnecessarily enjoying matter....

Adi, Introduction, page 13 (prays to be delivered by Caitanya)

One devotional song by Narottama dasa Thakura states: "My dear Lord Caitanya, please have mercy upon me. There is no one who is as merciful as You. My plea is most urgent because Your mission is to deliver fallen souls, and no one is moare fallen than I. I beg priority."

Adi 4.34 Purport (quoted on his inability to understand spiritual affairs)

Srila Narottama dasa Thakura, in his prayers to the Gosvamis, has explained his inability to understand such spiritual affairs.

rupa-raghunahta-pade ha-ibe akuti
kabe hama bujhaba se Yugala piriti

"When I shall be eager to understand the literature given by the Gosvamis, then I shall be able to understand the transcendental love affairs of Radha and Krsna." In other words, unless one is trained under the disciplic succession of the Gosvamis, one cannot understand Radha and Krsna...

Adi 5.204 Purport (quoted on mercy of Nityananda)

Srila Narottama dasa Thakura, who is famous for his poetic composition known as Prarthana, has lamented in one of his prayers, "When will Lord Nityananda be merciful upon me so that I will forget all material desires?" Srila Narottama dasa Thakura confirms that unless one is freed from material desires to satisfy the needs of the body and senses, one cannot understand the transcendental abode of Lord Krsna, Vrndavana. He also confirms that one cannot understand the loving affairs of Radha and Krsna without going through the direction of the six Gosvamis. In another verse Narottama dasa Thakura has stated that without the causeless mercy of Nityananda Prabhu, one cannot enter into the affairs of Radha and Krsna.

Adi 10.85 Purport (inspired by Jiva Gosvami)

When Jiva Gosvami was still present, Srila Krsnadasa Kaviraja Gosvami compiled his famous Caitanya-caritamrta. Later, Srila Jiva Gosvami inspired Srinivasa Acarya, Narottama dasa Thakura and Duhkhi Krsnadasa to preach Krsna consciousness in Bengal.

Adi 10.11 Purport (quoted on demigod worship)

Srila Narottama dasa Thakura has said, anya-devasraya nai, tomare kahinu bhai, ei bhakti parama-karuna: if one wants to become a pure, staunch devotee, one should not take shelter of any of the demigods or goddesses.

Adi 7.17 Purport (quoted on development of devotional service)

This gradual development of devotional service is described by Sri Narottama dasa Thakura as follows:

gauranga balite habe pulaka sarira
hari hari balite nayane ba-be nira
ara kabe nataicanda karuna karibe
samsara-vasana mora kabe tuccha habe
visaya chadiya kabe suddha habe mana
kabe hama heraba sri-vrndavana
rupa-raghunatha-pade ha-ibe akuti
kabe hama bujhaba sri-yugala-piriti

"When will there be eruptions on my body as soon as I chant the name of Lord Caitanya, and when will there be incessant torrents of tears as soon as I chant the holy names Hare Krsna? When will Lord Nityananda be merciful toward me and free me from all desires for material enjoyment? When will my mind be completely freed from all contamination of desires for material pleasure? Only at that time will it be possible for me to understand Vrndavana. Only if I become attached to the instructions given by the six Gosvamis headed by Rupa Gosvami and Raghunatha dasa Gosvami will it be possible for me to understand the conjugal love of Radha and Krsna."

Adi 8.31 Purport (quoted on following the Gosvamis)

Sri Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura here remarks that one should not give up the worship of Radha-Krsna to worship Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. By worshiping either Radha-Krsna or Lord Caitanya alone, one cannot become advanced. One should not try to supersede the instructions of the six Gosvamis, for they are acaryas and very dear to Lord Caitanya. Therefore Narottama dasa Thakura sings:

rupa-raghunatha-pade haibe akuti
kabe hama bujhaba se yugala-piriti

One must be a submissive student of the six Gosvamis, from Srila Rupa Gosvami to Raghunatha dasa Gosvami.

Adi 7.74 Purport (quote on holy name)

The holy name is completely different from material sound, as confirmed by Narottama dasa Thakura. Golokera preme-dhana, hari-nama-sankirtana: the transcendental vibration of hari-nama-sankirtana is imported from the spiritual world.

Adi 8.7. Purport (quoted on service of pure devotees)

It is very difficult to understand the secret of Krsna consciousness, but one who advances by the instruction of the previous acaryas and follows in the footsteps of his predecessors in the line of disciplic succession will have success. Others will not. Srila Narottama dasa Thakura says in this connection, chadiya vaisnava-seva nitara payeche keba: "Unless one serves the spiritual master and acaryas, one cannot be liberated." Elsewhere he says:

ei chaya gosani yanra---mui tantra dasa
tan-sabara pada-renu mora panca-grasa

"I simply accept a person who follows in the footsteps of the six Gosvamis, and the dust of such a person's lotus feet is my foodstuff."

Adi 8.17 Purport (quoted on service of pure devotees)

Narottama dasa Thakura sings, chadiya vaisnava-seva nistara payeche keba: "Who has been elevated without rendering service to a pure Vainava?"

Adi 8.20 Purport (quoted on story of Jagai and Madhai)

Srila Narottama dasa Thakura says:

dina-hina yata chila,
hari-name uddharila,
tara saksi jagai madhai

The two brothers Jagai and Madhai epitomize the sinful population of this age of Kali. They were most disturbing elements in society because they were meat eaters, drunkards, women hunters, rogues and thieves. Yet Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu delivered them, to say nothing of others who were sober, pious, devoted and conscientious...

Adi 8.31 Purport (quoted on taking shelter of Caitanya)

One should first take shelter of Gaura-Nityananda in order to reach, ultimately, Radha-Krsna. Srila Narottama dasa Thakura sings in this connection: gauranga balite ha'be.....

Adi 11.51 Purport (Ramacandra Kaviraja as most intimate friend of)

Sri Ramacandra Kaviraja, the son of Khandavasi Ciranjiva and Sunanda, was a disciple of Srinivasa Acarya and the most intimate friend of Narottama dasa Thakura, who prayed several times for his association..... Sri Ramacandra Kaviraja, who was perpetually

disinterested in family life, greatly assisted in the preaching work of Srinivasa Acarya and Narottama dasa Thakura.

Adi 16.108 Purport (cited on Caitanya's mercy to the fallen)

Sri Narottama dasa Thakura has sung that the best qualification for taking shelter of the lotus feet of Lord Caitanya is to be the most fallen because the Lord came specifically to deliver the fallen souls.

Adi 12.88 Verse and Purport (as disciple of Lokanatha)

Sivananda Cakravarti, the thirty-third branch, who always lived in Vrndavana with firm conviction, is considered an important branch of Gadadhara Pandita.

PURPORT

The Gaura-ganoddesa-dipika, verse 183, mentions that Sivananda Cakravarti was formerly Lanbanga-manjari. The Sakha-nirnaya, written by Yadunandana dasa, also names other branches, as follows: (1) Madhava Acarya, (2) Gopala dasa, (3) Hrdayananda, (4) Vallabha Bhatta (the Vallabha-sampradaya, or Pustimarga-sampradaya, is very famous), (5) Madhu Pandita (this famous devotee lived near Khadadaha in the village known as Sanibona-grama, about two miles east of the Khadadaha station, and constructed the temple of Gopinathaji in Vrndavana), (6) Acyutananda, (7) Candrasekhara, (8) Vakresvara pandita, (9) Damodara, (10) Bhagavan Acarya, (11) Ananta Acaryavarya, (12) Krsnadasa, (13) Paramananda Bhattacharya, (14) Bhavananda Gosvami, (15) Caitanya dasa, (16) Lokanatha Bhatta, (this devotee, who lived in the village of Talakhadi in the district of Yasohara and constructed the temple of Radhavinoda, was the spiritual master of Narottama dasa Thakura and a great friend of Bhugarbha Gosvami....

Adi 14.3 Purport (quoted on Caitanya as Krsna)

Srila Narottama dasa Thakura confirms this statement that now Lord Krsna, the son of mother Yasoda, has appeared again as Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu, becoming the son of mother Saci (vrajendra-nandana yei, saci-suta haila sei). The son of Saci is none other than the son of mother Yasoda and Nanda Maharaja, and Nityananda Prabhu is the same Balarama (balarama ha-ila nitai).

Adi 16.1 Purport (quoted on Caitanya's mercy)

Narottama dasa Thakura has sung, sri-krsna-caitanya prabhu daya kara more. He prays for Lord Caitanya's mercy because He is the mercy incarnation, having appeared especially to claim the fallen souls. The more fallen one is, the greater one's claim to the favor of Lord Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu...

Adi 14.50 Purport (quoted on demigod worship)

Our position of not allowing worship of the many hundreds of demigods is confirmed by Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu even in His childhood. Srila Narottama dasa Thakura has sung in this connection:

anya devasraya nai
tomare kahinu bhai
ei bhakti parama-karana

"To become a staunch, pure devotee of the Supreme Personality of Godhead without deviation (ananya-bhak), one should not divert his attention to the worship of the demigods. Such control is a symptom of pure devotional service."

Adi 17.304 Purport (quoted on love between Radha and Krsna)
In a son by Narottama dasa Thakura it is stated:

rupa-raghunatha-pade ha-ibe akuti
kabe hama bujhaba se Yugala-piriti

The conjugal love between Radha and Krsna, which is called yugala-piriti, is not understandable by mundane scholars, artists or poets. It is simply to be understood by devotees who strictly follow in the footsteps of the six Gosvamis.

Adi 13.43 Purport (quoted on understanding Krsna's pastimes)
Srila Narottama dasa Thakura therefore says, rupa-raghunatha-pade haibe akuti, kabe hama bujhaba se Yugala-piriti: "When shall I develop a mentality of service toward Sri Rupa Gosvami, Sanatana Gosvami, Raghunatha dasa Gosvami and the other devotees of Lord Caitanya and thus become eligible to understand the pastimes of Sri Radha and Krsna?"

Madhya 3.167 Purport (quoted on associates of Caitanya)
Sri Narottama dasa Thakura therefore sings: gaurangera sangigane nitya-siddha kari mane. Every devotee should know that all the associates of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu--His family members, friends and other associates--were all nitya-siddhas. A nitya-siddha never forgets the service of the Lord. He is always engaged, even from childhood, in worshiping the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Madhya 1.198 Purport (quoted on material entanglement)
Therefore Narottama dasa Thakura says:

nana yoni sada phire, kadarya bhaksana kare
tara janma adhah-pate yaya

"One travels throughout various species of life and eats all kinds of nonsense. Thus he spoils his existence." A man in material existence and attached to ku-visaya or su-visaya is in the same position as that of a worm in stool. After all, whether it be moist or dry, stool is stool. Similarly, material activities may be either pious or impious, but because they are all material, they are compared to stool.

Madhya 1.218 Purport (quoted on service to a Vaisnava)

Srila Narottama dasa Thakura says, chadiya vaisnava aseva nistara peche keba: unless one serves a Vaisnava, he cannot be delivered. The spiritual master initiates the disciple to deliver him, and if the disciple executes the order of the spiritual master and does not offend other Vaisnavas, his path is clear.

Madhya 5.113 Purport (quoted on associates of Caitanya)

We have to accept the fact that the nitya-siddhas are completely distinct from the nitya-baddhas, who are ordinary human beings. Srila Narottama dasa Thakura confirms this statement:

gaurangera sangi-gane, nitya-siddha kari' mane,
se yaya vrajendra-suta pasa
sri-gauda-mandala-bhumi, yeba jane cintamani
tara haya vraja-bhume vasa

One who accepts the associates of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu as nitya-siddhas is certain to be elevated to the spiritual kingdom to become an associate of the Supreme Lord. One should also know that Gauda-mandala-bhumi--those places in Bengal where Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu stayed--are equal to Vrajabhumi, or Vrndavana. There is no difference between the inhabitants of Vrndavana and those of Gauda-mandala bhumi, or Sridhama Mayapura.

Madhya 4.79 Purport (quoted on association of devotees)

As Narottama dasa Thakura has stated: tandera carana sevi bhakta-sane vasa, janame janame haya ei abhilasa. The Krsna consciousness devotees must always desire to remain in the society of devotees. Bhakti-sane vasa: they cannot go outside the Krsna conscious society or the movement. Within the society we must try to serve the predecessors by preaching Caitanya Mahaprabhu's cult and spreading His name and fame all over the world.

Madhya 5.23 Purport (quoted on being servant of servant of Krsna)

A pure Vaisnava serves a servant of Krsna and identifies himself as a servant of a servant of Krsna. This is pleasing to Lord Krsna. Srila Narottama dasa Thakura confirms this philosophy: chadiya vaisnava-seva nistara payeche keba. Unless one serves a liberated Vaisnava, he cannot attain liberation by directly serving Krsna. He must serve the servant of Krsna.

Madhya 5.24 Purport (quoted on karma-kanda sections of Vedas)

The Vaisnavas, however, are not interested in any kind of karma-kanda dealings. Srila Narottama dasa Thakura says: karma-kanda jnana-kanda kevala visera bhanda. For a Vaisnava, the karma-kanda and jnana-kanda sections of the Vedas are unnecessary. Indeed, a real Vaisnava takes these sections as a poison pot (visera bhanda).

Madhya 6.235 Purport (quoted on position of jnanis and karmis)

The karmis are fully under the bodily conception of life, and the jnanis, although theoretically understanding that they are not the body, also have no information about the lotus feet of the Lord because they overly stress impersonalism. Consequently both karmis and jnanis are unfit for receiving the mercy of the Lord and becoming devotees. Narottama dasa Thakura therefore says, jnana-kanda karma-kanda, kevala visera bhanda: those who have taken to the process of karma-kanda (fruitive activity) and jnana-kanda (speculation on the science of transcendence) have simply eaten from poisoned pots.

Madhya 7.130 Purport (accepted thousands of disciples)

Similarly, Narottama dasa Thakura and other great acaryas like Madhvacarya, Ramanujacarya and others accepted thousands of disciples to induce them to render devotional service. However, there is a class of sahajiyas who think that these activities are opposed to the principles of devotional service. Indeed, they consider such activities simply another phase of materialism. Thus opposing the principles of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, they commit offenses at His lotus feet. They should better consider His instructions and, instead of seeking to be considered humble and meek, should refrain from criticizing the followers of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu who engage in preaching.

Madhya 8.38 (quoted on Lord's mercy)

"You have come here specifically to deliver me. You are so merciful that You alone can deliver all fallen souls."

PURPORT

Srila Narottama dasa Thakura sings in his Prarthana (40):

sri-krnsna-caitanya-prabhu daya kara more,
toma vina ke dayalu jagat samsare

patita-pavana-hetu tava avatara,
mo-sama patita prabhu na paibe ara

"My dear Lord, please be merciful to me. Who can be more merciful than Your Lordship within these three worlds? You appear as an incarnation just to reclaim the conditioned, fallen souls, but I assure You that You will not find a soul more fallen than me."

Madhya 7.126 (quoted on miseries of material life)

This statement is applicable for everyone, regardless of how rich or prosperous one may be. Narottama dasa Thakura has confirmed this statement: samsara-visanale, diva-nisi hiya jvale. He states that the materialistic way of life causes a burning in the heart. One cannot make any provisions for the troublesome life of the material world. It is a fact that one may be very happy as far as riches are concerned and one may be very opulent in every respect, yet one has to manage the visayyas to meet the demands of

the body and of so many family members and subordinates. One has to take so much trouble to minister to others. Narottama dasa Thakura therefore prays: visaya chadiya kabe suddha ha'be mana. Thus one must become freed from the materialistic way of life. One has to merge himself in the ocean of transcendental bliss. In other words, one cannot relish transcendental bliss without being freed from the materialistic way of life.

Madhya 8.60 Purport (quoted on sankirtana)

Srila Narottama dasa Thakura has sung: golokera prema-dhana, hari-nama-sankirtana, rati na janmila kene taya. This states that the sankirtana movement has nothing to do with the material world. It is imported from the spiritual world, Goloka Vrndavana. Narottama dasa Thakura laments that mundane people do not take this sankirtana movement seriously.

Madhya 8.138 Purport (quoted on understanding Vrndavana)

This transcendental Vrndavana is not appreciated by those who are not deotees or self-realized souls because this Vrndavana-dham is all spiritual. The pastimes of the Lord there are also spiritual. None are material. According to the prayer of Srila Narottama dasa Thakura (Prarthana 1):

ara kabe nitai-candera karuna haibe
samsara-vasana mora kabe tuccha ha'be

"When will Lord Nityananda have mercy upon me so that I can realize the uselessness of material pleasure?"

visaya-chadiya kabe suddha ha'be mana
kabe hama heraba sri-vrndavana

"When will my mind be cleansed of all material dirt so that I will be able to feel the presence of spiritual Vrndavana?"

rupa-raghunatha-pade haibe akuti
kabe hama bujhaba se Yugala-piriti

"When will I be attracted to the instructions of the Gosvamis so that I will be able to understand what is Radha and Krsna and what is Vrndavana?"

Madhya 11.46 Purport (mission of Caitanya described by)

Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's mission is thus described by Narottama dasa Thakura: patita-pavana-hetu tava avatara/ mo'sama patita prabhu na paibe ara. If Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu descended to reclaim sinners, then one who is the most sinful and lowborn is the first candidate for the Lord's consideration.

Madhya 10.67 Purport (songs of quoted on serving devotees)

Madhya 11.89 Purport (quoted on associates of Caitanya)

Madhya 14.16 Purport (quoted on Caitanya's mercy)

Madhya 16.281 Purport (cited on Krsna-Balarama as Gaura-Nitai)

Madhya 15.163 Purport (quoted on ideal devotee of Caitanya)

Madhya 17.185 Purport (quoted on sadhu)

Madhya 18.49 Purport (selected Lokanatha dasa Gosvami as his guru)

Madhya 19.156 Purport (stresses pleasing previous acarya)

Madhya 20.352 Purport (quoted on comparing words of guru, saints and sastra)

Madhya 20.57 Purport (quoted on devotee purifying place of pilgrimage)

Madhya 22.153 Purport (quoted on necessity of following six Gosvamis)

Madhya 24.330 Purport (as brahmana by qualification)

Unless one is qualified with all these attributed, he cannot be accepted as a brahmana. It is not a question of simply taking birth in a brahmana family. In this regard, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura remarks that Narottama dasa Thakura and Syamananda Gosvami, although not born in brahmana families, are accepted as bona fide spiritual masters because they were brahmanas by qualification. Personalities like Sri Ganga-narayana, Ramakrsna and many others, who were actually born in brahmana families, accepted Narottama dasa Thakura and Syamananda Gosvami as their spiritual masters.

Madhya 25.271 Purport (as servant of Gosvamis)

Madhya 25.271 (quoted on understanding pastimes of Krsna)

Antya 2.120 Purport (achieved most elevated stage of renounced order, those influenced by material energy accept as ordinary human being)

Thus for a sannyasi, a person in the renounced order, talking intimately with women is a great offense. Sri Ramananda Raya and Srila Narottama dasa Thakura actually achieved the most elevated stage of the renounced order, but those who imitate them, accepting them as ordinary human beings, fall under the influence of the material energy, for that is a great misunderstanding.

Antya 3.51 (quoted on patita-pavana)

Antya 6.314 Purport (quoted on spiritual knowledge)

Antya 5.88 Purport (represented mercy of Caitanya)

To inundate the three worlds with nectar is the purpose of the pastimes of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. How this could be possible was exhibited by Srila Raghunatha Gosvami and later by Thakura Narottama dasa and Syamananda Gosvami, who all represented the mercy of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Now that same mercy is overflowing the entire world through the Krsna consciousness movement.

Antya 7.53 Purport (quoted on serving a pure Vaisnava)

Antya 13.113 Purport (quoted on serving devotees)

SYAMANANDA PRABHU

FROM THE BIOGRAPHIES

239. SYAMANANDA PRABHU: (GVA, GPC)

He was born in a sadgopa caste. His name as a youth was "Duhkhi va Duhkhini" and "Krsnadasa". BRK. 1.351-352, 359, 401 and 6.52 explains that Syamananda came from the village of Dandesvara. His parents were Sri Krsna Mandal and Durika. The family originally lived at Dharendra Bahadurpur. Syamananda was born In 1456 Saka (1534 A.D.). At the time of his birth his elder brother and sister died, thus his parents called him Duhkhi.

Syamananda was a disciple of Hrday Caitanya. A detailed biography of Syamananda came be found in Syamanandaprakasa, Abhirama lilamrta, Premavilasa, Bhaktiratnakara.

Syamananda's father was from Gauda and later moved to Dharendra Bahadurpura, located in Dandesvara in Orissa. His parents arranged for him to acquire an adequate education. In Vaisnava works Syamananda is hailed as "the incarnation of Lord Advaita."

From his early childhood Syamananda manifested strong religious tendencies. At the age of twenty he went on pilgrimage. Arriving at Amvikanagara he was overwhelmed with ecstasy upon saw the Deities of Gaura-Nitai installed there by Gauridasa Pandita. Hrday Caitanya, a disciple of Gauridasa, was deeply impressed with the boy's spiritual advancement and gave him diksa.

Syamananda first made an extensive tour of Bengal. Thereafter he visited all the holy places of India, eventually arriving in Vrndavana where he studied Bhakti sastra and engaged in devotional service under the direct guidance of Jiva Gosvami

Once, while Syamananda prabhu was cleaning the Rasamandala in Vrndavana, he found the anklet of Srimati Radhika and as soon as he touched it to his forehead a mark of tilaka shaped like an ankle bell appeared there. Since that time descendants of Syamananda prabhu's family wear a similar tilak mark on their foreheads.

In 1504 Saka (1582 A.D.) Syamananda, Narottama and Srinivasa Acarya carried all the Gosvami's writings from Vrndavana to Bengal to be printed and distributed there (See "Srinivasa Acarya").

Toward the later years of his life Syamananda settled at Nrsimhapura in Orissa and vigorously preached the message of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. He converted a large number of Muslims to Vaisnavism. Out of Syamananda's numerous disciples, the foremost

was Rasikamurari. Syamananda installed Deities of Radhagovinda at Sripata Gopiballavpura (BRK. 15.63-65)

Syamananda died in 1552 Saka (1630 A.D.) in the house of Uddanda Raya Bhuiyan at Nrsimhapura.

The following is from GPC:

Syamananda, Srinivasa and Narottama Thakura were extremely dear to Sri Gaurasundara. They took birth in this world to preach the message of Lord Caitanya. Sri Syamananda prabhu was born in Dharendra Bahadurpura. His father and mother were Sri Krsna Mandal and Sri Durika devi respectively. He belonged to the sadgopa (milkman) community and was born shortly after all the sons and daughters of Sri Krsna Mandal had died. For that reason he was named Dukhiya. From the time of his birth everyone thought that he would be a great man because he was born by the mercy of Sri Jagannatha Deva, at an auspicious moment on the full moon day in the month of Caitra (March-April). They were also of the opinion that Lord Jagannatha Deva had brought him to this world to preach the message of the Lord, thus proper attention ought to be given to him. Syamananda was an extremely handsome boy; he looked like Madana (the God of love) himself.

In course of time the ceremony for giving the first grains took place, and soon after his education began. His teachers were astonished by the boy's extraordinary intelligence. Within a very short time he learned grammar, poetry and rhetoric. As a youth he constantly listened to the glories of Sri Gauranga and Nityananda as told by the Vaisnavas of his village. As a result Syamananda became very devoted to these two Lord's. Sri Krsna Mandal was a great devotee, thus seeing that his son was always absorbed in thoughts of Sri Gaura-Nitai, he advised him to accept initiation. Sri Syamananda prabhu replied that his guru was Hrday Caitanya, a disciple of Gauridasa Pandita, and he was living in Kalna at that time. Thus Syamananda requested permission to travel to the house of Hrday Caitanya in Gauda. When his father asked the boy how he would find his way to Gauda, Syamananda answered, "So many people are going to Bengal to take bath in the holy Ganges. I will accompany them." After thinking it over for a long time, Sri Krsna Mandal finally permitted his son to leave for Bengal.

Syamananda eventually arrived at Amvika Kalna via Navadvipa and Santipura and managed to find the residence of Sri Gauridasa Pandita. There he fell prostrate on the ground at the main entrance of the temple of Mahaprabhu. When Sri Hrday Caitanya came out and enquired who he was, Dukhiya gave his identity and explained that he had come from Dharendra Bahadurpura to worship his holy feet. Sri Hrday Caitanya was very pleased with the boy and

gave him the new name "Krsnadasa". He also told Krsnadasa that from early that morning he had been waiting, expecting someone to visit him.

Sri Krsnadasa began serving his guru with utmost sincerity. Shortly thereafter, on an auspicious day, Sri Hrdayacaitanya gave him initiation. Understanding the boy's sincerity and profound intelligence, Hrdayacaitanya, advised him to go to Vrndavana and study Gosvami grantha under Sri Jiva Gosvami. At the time of Krsnadasa's departure, his spiritual master gave him many precious instructions and requested him to convey his regards to the Gosvamis of Sri Vrndavana.

Krsnadasa first went to Navadvipa where he worshiped the feet of Isana Thakura, who was residing at Jagannatha Misra's house. After spending a day in Navadvipa and receiving the blessings of Isana, Krsnadasa proceeded towards Mathura along with a group of travelers.

Along the way they passed through Gaya dham, where Krsnadasa was overwhelmed with love upon seeing the lotus feet of Lord Visnu, remembering the day when Mahaprabhu accepted initiation from Isvara Puri at that very spot. From Gaya he went to Kasi and worshiped the holy feet of Sri Tapana Misra, Candrasekhar and others. After receiving their blessings he traveled on to Mathura. There he first bathed at Visram ghat, had darsana of Adi Kesava and rolled on the ground in spiritual ecstasy. Proceeding on to Vrndavana, he eventually arrived at the residence of Sri Jiva Gosvami and worshiped his lotus feet. Krsnadasa then introduced himself, explaining that his spiritual master, Hrdayacaitanya dasa, had sent him to study for some time under the guidance of Sri Jiva Gosvami.

Sri Jiva Gosvami happily accepted him as his student. Krsnadasa thus stayed with Jiva Gosvami, serving him attentively and studying the books of Gosvamis. At that time Krsnadasa met Srinivasa Acarya and Narottama Thakura who had also come to study under Sri Jiva.

When Krsnadasa requested some service to perform, Sri Jiva gave him charge of cleaning the garden groves of Radha Krsna. From that day forward Krsnadasa happily swept the groves. Sometimes when sweeping, tears would glide down his cheeks, while at other times as he engaged in sankirtana, remembering the pastimes of Sri Radha Govinda, he would become stunned with ecstasy. Sometimes he would place the broom, which was covered with dust, on his head. The touch of that transcendental dust was desired by even Lord Brahma and Lord Siva.

Upon seeing Krsnadasa's sincerity, Lord Krsna and Srimati Radhika became very please and desired to appear before him. One day when he was deeply absorbed in sweeping the grove, Krsnadasa suddenly noticed an extraordinarily beautiful anklet lying on the

ground. Astonished, he picked up the anklet, placed it to his forehead and then tied it to his scarf. He decided to take care of it until its rightful owner came looking for it.

Meanwhile, the gopi friends of Sri Radha were surprised to find that Sri Radha's anklet had disappeared from her left foot. Sri Radha explained that it must have fallen off during the night when they were dancing in the grove and requested them to search for it. Visakha devi then went to the grove where Krsnadasa was cleaning and enquired about the anklet. Seeing the beautiful form of Visakha and hearing her sweet voice, Krsnadasa became stunned. Visakha again enquired and Krsnadasa managed to offer his respects and humbly explained that he had found an anklet, but he wanted to know her identity and whether the anklet actually belonged to her or not. Visakha devi said that she was a dairy-maid from a nearby village and the anklet belonged to a bride of her house. She explained that while picking flowers the anklet had slipped from her feet. Krsnadasa, however, insisted that the rightful owner of the anklet should come to reclaim it.

After some time Sri Radha Thakurani, accompanied by Visakha devi, approached Krsnadasa and told him that the rightful owner had come to take her anklet. Seeing the extraordinary beauty of Sri Radhika, Krsnadasa became overwhelmed with bliss. He joyfully delivered the anklet to Visakha devi, then fell to the ground crying ecstatically. Visakha said that her friend wanted to give him a gift as a token of gratitude. But Krsnadasa replied that he had no interest in anything other than the dust of her lotus feet. Visakha devi then told him to take bath in Radha kunda. As soon as he did as she requested, Krsnadasa was transformed into a beautiful young girl. She then came before Visakha devi and worshiped her lotus feet. Visakha took her before Sri Radha Thakurani, and she fell prostrate at her lotus feet. Sri Radha took her anklet and placed it on the young girl's forehead, explaining that the tilak which appeared there as a result of the touch of the anklet would always remain on Krsnadasa's forehead. She also said that from that day forward Krsnadasa should be known as Syamananda. With these words Sri Radha Thakurani and her companions disappeared. When Duhkhi Krsnadasa regained his external consciousness he found the bright marking on his forehead. Overwhelmed with ecstasy he cried uncontrollably for a long time. He then offered his obeisances to Sri Radha and returned to the residence of Sri Jiva Gosvami.

Sri Jiva Gosvami was astonished to see the bright tilak marking the forehead of Krsnadasa and enquired about it. Krsnadasa offered his respects and tearfully explained the entire incident. Upon hearing this wonderful story Jiva Gosvami was overjoyed, but advised Krsnadasa not to disclose the incident to anyone.

When the Vaisnavas noticed the change in Krsnadasa's tilak and name they became suspicious and began to talk amongst themselves.

Gradually the news reached Amvika Kalna in Bengal. When Hrday Caitanya heard the news he became furious and rushed to Sri Vrndavana. Upon seeing his spiritual master before him, Syamananda fell prostrate at his feet. But, seeing the new tilak on the forehead of his disciple, Hrday Caitanya was livid and harshly rebuked Syamananda again and again, until eventually the Vaisnavas managed to pacify him. Syamananda endured the verbal assault with a smile and continued to serve his teacher as usual.

That night, Sri Hrday Caitanya dreamed that Sri Radha was chastising him severely saying, "Being pleased with Krsnadasa, I have changed both his name and markings. Who dares to say anything?" Hrday Caitanya, understanding his fault, prayed to Sri Radhika to excuse him.

The following morning he embraced Syamananda affectionately and tearfully declared him to be extremely fortunate. Hrday Caitanya then remained in Vrndavana for sometime. Before departing for Bengal he advised Syamananda to remain with Sri Jiva Gosvami for some time longer then return to Bengal.

Sri Syamananda, Srinivasa and Narottama Thakura lived happily in Sri Vrndavana studying the works of the Gosvamis under the guidance of Sri Jiva Gosvami. They lived on madhukari and were content to remain there forever. However, the Gosvamis, after consulting together, decided that the three students of Jiva should spread the message of Lord Caitanya and distribute the books of the Gosvamis. Thus on an auspicious day the three friends set out for Bengal, carrying the Gosvami grantha.

They traveled safely until they reached the edge of Vana Visnupura, where the books were stolen by a band of dacoits employed by King Vira Hamvira. Srinivasa Acarya remained there to rescue the books, while Sri Narottama and Syamananda proceeded towards Kheturi and Amvika Kalna respectively.

Arriving in Amvika Kalna, Syamananda prabhu worshiped the feet of Sri Hrday Caitanya, who received him affectionately and inquired about the Gosvamis of Vrndavana. He was deeply disturbed when he heard that the books had been stolen.

Syamananda remained with his spiritual master for some time. During this period many of the associates of Sri Gaurasundara in Orissa passed away one by one and the sankirtana movement of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu practically came to a halt. Hrday Caitanya was extremely worried about this and thus he advised Sri Syamananda to go to preach in Orissa. Syamananda was reluctant to leave the association of his spiritual master, but Hrday Caitanya convinced him of the importance of this mission.

On his way to Orissa, Syamananda came to the village of his birth, Dharendra Bahadurpura. The villagers there were extremely

pleased to see him after such a long time. He remained there for some time preaching the message of Mahaprabhu, thus many people became purified and took shelter at his lotus feet. Thereafter he traveled on to Dandesvara, where Sri Krsna Mandal had previously lived. Upon his arrival a grand festival was held and again many people, being charmed by Syamananda's spiritual potency, became his disciples. When Syamananda arrived in Orissa the message of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu was revived and spread far and wide.

Sri Acyutadeva, a religious minded landlord, lived near the river Suvarnarekha. He had a son named Rasika, who was extremely devoted to Lord Krsna from his early boyhood days. Although teachers were appointed to teach him, he was not at all interested in mundane knowledge. In his eyes the worship of Lord Krsna was superior to everything and he was extremely anxious to take shelter at the lotus feet of a spiritual master. One day, while absorbed in deep thought in a solitary place, Rasika suddenly heard an oracle: "Rasika! Do not worry, very soon you will meet your spiritual master Sri Syamananda and take shelter at his lotus feet. Upon hearing this, Rasika was greatly relieved and waited eagerly for the appearance of Sri Syamananda.

A few days later, Syamananda prabhu and his disciples arrived at the house of Rasika deva in the village of Rohini near the river Suvarnarekha. Overcome with happiness, Sri Rasika deva fell prostrate before him. He very humbly took ushered Syamananda into his house and worshiped his holy feet, along with his sons and relatives. On an auspicious day Syamananda initiated Rasika deva in the Krsna mantra. Rasika then arranged for a grand festival of sankirtana to be held at his house. All Rasika's friends, as well as the local villagers, attended the festival and through the association of Syamananda prabhu they were all attracted by the message of Sri Gaura-Nitai. Thus they took shelter at the feet of Syamananda and became his disciples.

A great yogi named Damodara who lived at Rohini, heard about the glories of Sri Syamananda and thus came to meet him. He was immediately charmed by Syamananda's divine appearance and requested him to chant the name of Gaura-Nitai. Syamananda explained that these two Lord's are supremely merciful and requested the yogi to chant along with him. Thus Damodara became an ardent devotee of Gaura-Nityananda and used to cry whenever he chanted Their names.

From Rohini village, Sri Syamananda, along with Rasika, Damodara and other devotees, went to Balaramapura and then on to Sri Nrsimhapura. In these places ecstatic sankirtana was held, and the hearts of both the wicked and the rich were drawn to the shelter of Syamananda prabhu, thus becoming his disciples.

After conquering many places in Orissa, Syamananda went to Gopivallavapura. Many wealthy persons there were attracted by his preaching and took refuge at his feet. They requested him to build

a temple and install Deities in Gopivallavapura. Syamananda agreed and shortly thereafter, with the help of the devotees there, a temple, sankirtana hall, kitchen, houses for devotees, lake, gardens, etc. were constructed. Sri Syamananda prabhu held a grand celebration and installed the Deity of Sri Radha Govinda. This festival was attended by many devotees from Bengal and Orissa, who were all overwhelmed with happiness upon seeing the beauty of the Deities. Thereafter Syamananda prabhu gave the entire charge of the temple to Sri Rasikananda.

Sri Syamananda prabhu preached the message of Gaura-Nitai throughout Orissa and thereafter returned to Sri Hriday Caitanya in Amvika Kalna. He worshiped the lotus feet of his guru and described his preaching activities in detail. Being pleased with his disciple, Hriday Caitanya embraced Syamananda affectionately.

Sri Syamananda prabhu and his disciples attended the great festival in Kheturi. Upon arriving, Syamananda prabhu was filled with joy to again meet his dear friends Narottama and Srinivasa. Sri Jahnava devi, Sri Raghunandana Thakura, Sri Acyutananda and Sri Vrndavana dasa Thakura and many other devotees of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu participated in that famous festival. After the festival Sri Syamananda took leave of the Vaisnavas and proceeded towards Orissa. Along the way he visited the houses of Sri Gadadhara dasa Thakura, Srinivasa Acarya and Sri Raghunandana Thakura in Kantaka nagara, Yajigrama and Srikhanda respectively. Around that time many of the associates of the Lord began to pass away from this world.

In Orissa he continued to travel and preach, spreading the message of Gauranga. Upon reaching Gopivallavapura he received the news of Hriday Caitanya prabhu's disappearance and fell unconscious on the ground. He was completely distraught, but became pacified to some extent when Hriday Caitanya appeared before him in a dream and consoled him.

Acarya Syamananda's fame spread throughout Orissa, and in many places the worship of Gaura-Nitai was established due to his preaching efforts. Sri Rasika Murari, Sri Radhananda, Sri Purusottama, Sri Manohara, Cintamani, Balabhadra, Sri Jagadisvara, Sri Uddhava, Akrura, Madhuvana, Sri Govinda, Sri Jagannatha, Gadadhara, Anandananda and Sri Radhamohana were very intimate devotees of Sri Syamananda. After conquering Orissa, Syamananda went to Gopivallavapura where he arranged to hold a grand festival for a few days. Thereafter on the first day of the dark fortnight in the month of Asadha he left this world. Today he is still worshiped regularly at his samadhi.

FROM CAITANYA CARITAMRTA

Adi 1.19 Purport (temple of Syamasundara of)

...Besides the temples of these three Deities, many other temples have been established in Vrndavana, such as the temple of Radha-Damodara of Jiva Gosvami, the temple of Syamasundara of Syamananda Gosvami, the temple of Gokulananda of Lokanatha Gosvami, and the temple of Radharamana of Gopala Bhatta Gosvami. There are seven principal temples over four hundred years old that are the most important of the 5,000 temples now existing in Vrndavana.

Madhya 4.12 Purport

There is a railway station named Balesvara, and five miles to the west is a village named Remuna. The temple of Ksira-cora-gopinatha still exists in this village, and within the temple the samadhi tomb of Rasikananda Prabhu, the chief disciple of Syamananda Gosvami can still be found.

Madhya 8.128 Purport (Rasikananda initiated by)

Advaita Acarya, although a grastha, was initiated by Madhavendra Puri, and Sri Rasikananda, although born in a brahmana family, was initiated by Sri Syamananda Prabhu, who was not born in a caste brahmana family. There are many instances in which a born brahmana took initiation from a person who was not born in a brahmana family...

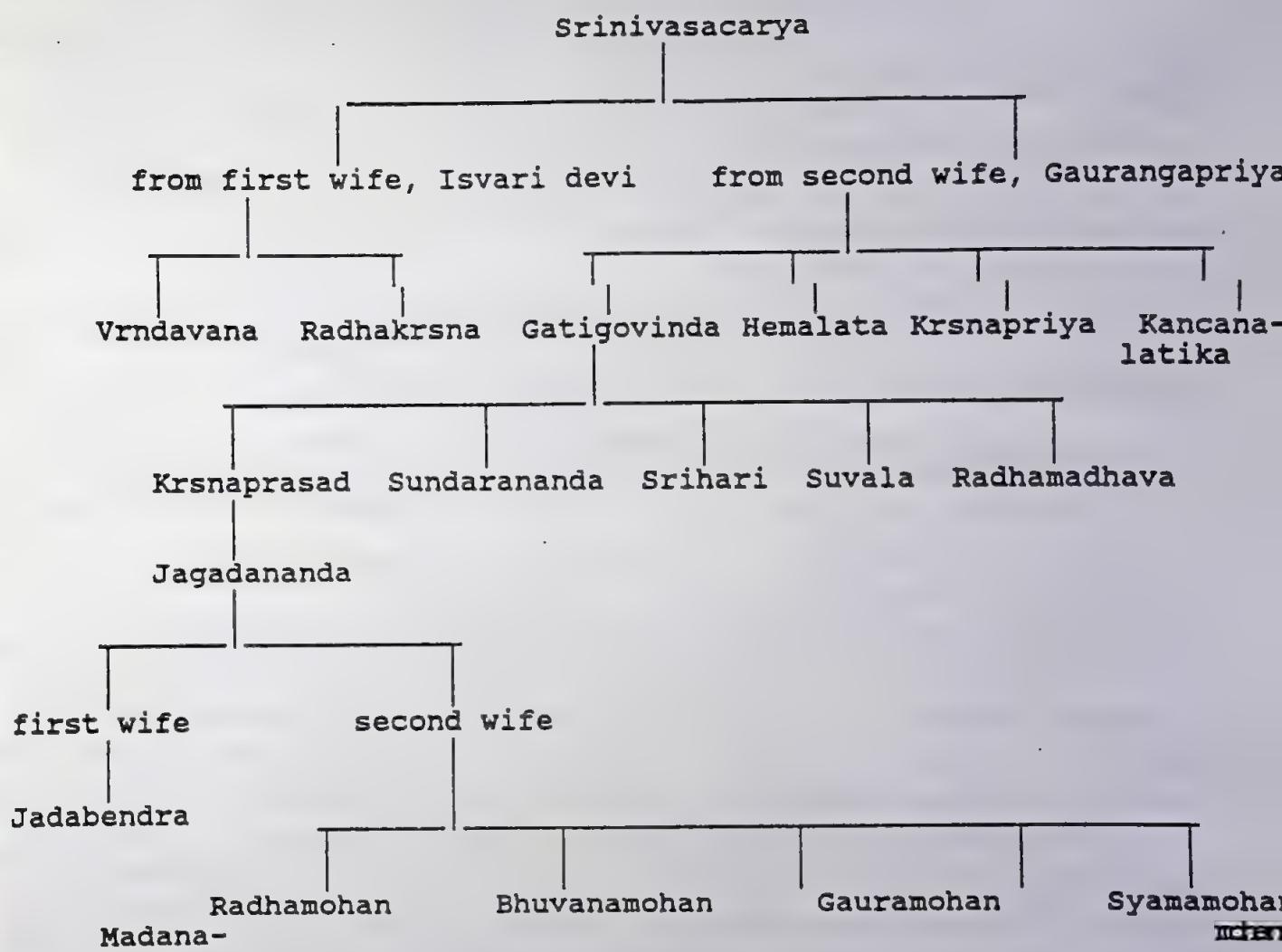
Madhya 24.330 Purport (as brahmana by qualification)

Unless one is qualified with all these attributed, he cannot be accepted as a brahmana. It is not a question of simply taking birth in a brahmana family. In this regard, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura remarks that Narottama dasa Thakura and Syamananda Gosvami, although not born in brahmana families, are accepted as bona fide spiritual masters because they were brahmanas by qualification. Personalities like Sri Ganga-narayana, Ramakrsna and many others, who were actually born in brahmana families, accepted Narottama dasa Thakura and Syamananda Gosvami as their spiritual masters.

Antya 5.88 Purport (represented mercy of Caitanya)

To inundate the three worlds with nectar is the purpose of the pastimes of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. How this could be possible was exhibited by Srila Raghunatha Gosvami and later by Thakura Narottama dasa and Syamananda Gosvami, who all represented the mercy of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

GENEALOGICAL TABLE OF SRINIVASA



SPIRITUAL LINEAGE (SAKHA) OF SRINIVASA

Chaya Cakravarti:

1. Sridasa Cakravarti
2. Sri Gokulananda Cakravarti
3. Sri Syamadasa Cakravarti
4. Sri Vyasa Cakravarti
5. Sri Govinda Cakravarti
6. Sri Narayana Cakravarti

(Some variations are found in Karnananda)

Asta Kaviraja:

1. Ramacandra Kaviraja
2. Govinda Kaviraja
3. Karnapura Kaviraja
4. Nrsimha Kaviraja
5. Bhagavan Kaviraja
6. Vallabhikanta Kaviraja
7. Gopiramana Kaviraja
8. Gokula Kaviraja

Chaya Thakura:

1. Ramakrsna Cattaraja
2. Kumudananda Kularaja
3. Radhavallabha Mandala
4. Jayarama Cakravarti
5. Srirupa Ghatak
6. Sri Thakura dasa Thakura

One King: Vira Hamvira (his son was Dhadi Hamvira)

Srinivasa preached in the following places:

1. Mallabhuma--Visnupura
2. Manbhumi
3. Simhabhumi--Caibasa
4. Bhattabhum (Ramgad)
5. Samantabhum
6. Varahabhum
7. Tungabhum
8. Brahmanabhum
9. Sikarabhum
10. Dhalabhum
11. Dhanabhum
12. Nagabhum

13. Birbhum

14. Sabarabhum (The area stretching from the River Suvarnarekha in south-western Midnapore to the river Kamsavati in the north.

(Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, XII, 1916, 1:52)

The biography of Srinivasa can be found in Jimutavahana Raya's Srinivasa Acarya O Sodasa Satavdira Gaudiya Vaisnava Samaja (Srinivasa Acarya and the Gaudiya Vaisnava community of the 16th century), Santiniketana, Visva bharati Gavesana Prakasana Samiti, 1984, 363 p.

Chapter 1: Sources for biography of Srinivasa

Chapter 2: Opinions of various scholars relating to the biography of Srinivasa.

Chapter 3: Biography of Srinivasa

Chapter 4: Role of Srinivasa in organizing the Vaisnava community in Bengal.

Chapter 5: Influence exerted by Srinivasa on Gaudiya Vaisnava Dharma

Chapter 6: An account of the lineage of Srinivasa

Chapter 7: Contribution of Srinivasa in Padavali literature

Chapter 8: Bibliography

(The following information is from GPC)

Srinivasa Acarya's mother was Sri Laksmipriya and his father was Sri Gangadhara Bhattacharya (later known as Sri Caitanya dasa). They lived in the village of Cakhandi near the Bhagirathi river. When Sri Gaurasundara completed His activities in Nadia and went to the asrama of Sri Kesava Bharati in Kantak to take sannyasa, the news spread rapidly and thousands of people from far and wide assembled to witness the ceremony of Mahaprabhu's sannyasa initiation. Gangadhara Bhattacharya also went to witness the event. The devotees were overwhelmed with grief at the thought of Mahaprabhu shaving off His beautiful curly hair. Madhu, the barber, was completely depressed and stood motionless, unable to cut the Lord's hair. Only after the Lord repeatedly insisted, did Madhu finally cut off Mahaprabhu's beautiful locks. However, immediately thereafter Madhu fainted on the ground crying pathetically, "Oh what have I done, what have I done?" The entire atmosphere was filled with lamentation and no one was able to console each other. Even the birds in the trees began to cry, and Gangadhara Bhattacharya fainted in grief.

After a long time Gangadhara Bhattacharya regained consciousness and began reciting the name "Sri Krsna Caitanya, Sri Krsna Caitanya." He then returned to Cakhandi village and like a mad man incessantly chanted the name of Sri Caitanya. His devoted wife also cried her heart out when she heard the news of Mahaprabhu's acceptance of sannyasa. Thus people began calling Gangadhara, Caitanya dasa.

Later, Caitanya dasa and his wife went to Puri to visit Sri

Caitanya Mahaprabhu. From a distance Caitanya dasa spotted the Lord and immediately he and his wife fell prostrate, offering obeisances with tearful eyes. The Lord called them near to Him and lovingly addressed them in a sweet voice, "By the grace of Lord Jagannatha you have reached here safely, now you must proceed at once to take darsana of the Lord and He will fulfill your desire" (Bhakti R.).

Accompanied by Govinda, Mahaprabhu's servant, Caitanya dasa and his wife went to see Sri Jagannatha. They tearfully offered prayers to the Lord, then went to the residence arranged for them by Mahaprabhu.

The days passed and Caitanya dasa and his wife relished every moment of their stay in Nilacala. One day Sri Gaurasundara informed Govinda that both Caitanya dasa and his wife had prayed to Lord Jagannatha to give them a son, thus they would soon be the proud parents of a beautiful son named Srinivasa. The Lord further explained, "Through Rupa and Sanatana, I manifested wonderful devotional literatures, and through Srinivasa, I will distribute those sastras far and wide. Now you may tell Caitanya dasa to return to Gauda immediately."

As desired by the Lord, Caitanya dasa happily returned to Bengal. Sri Laksmipriya's father Balarama Bipra, who was a great astrologer and scholar, predicted that soon a great personality would be born to Laksmi devi. Sure enough, on the auspicious full moon day in the month of Vaisaka (April-May), when the star Rohini was visible in the sky, a son was born to Laksmipriya. All the markings of a great personality were visible on the child's body. Immediately Sri Caitanya dasa offered the boy to the lotus feet of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and happily distributed gifts and charity to numerous brahmanas. Everyone was overwhelmed with joy.

As the child grew Laksmipriya chanted the holy name of Sri Gauranga constantly and taught her son to do the same. Time passed quickly and soon he accepted the sacred thread and began his studies under the guidance of Dhananjaya Vidyavacaspati. Within a very short period he became well versed in every subject.

In his boyhood, Srinivasa received the mercy of Sri Govinda Ghosh and Sri Narahari Sarkara Thakura, as well as others. However, at a young age he lost his father and was greatly aggrieved. Sri Laksmidevi was overwhelmed with sorrow and could be pacified only by seeing the face of her beloved son. Shortly thereafter Srinivasa took his mother to his grandfather's house in Yajigram. The residents there were delighted to meet Srinivasa, and the learned brahmanas were charmed by the boy's divine characteristics, his vast knowledge and love for the Lord. Srinivasa had no interest whatsoever in materialistic activities and was above all temptations. He was always immersed in thought of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and eagerly awaited the time when he

would be able to visit Nilacala.

Srinivasa eventually went to meet Sri Narahari Sarkara in Srikhanda. With tears streaming from his eyes, Srinivasa fell at the feet of Sri Sarkara, who lovingly picked him up and embraced him. Srinivasa then prayed that he would be allowed to visit the places of Sri Gauranga's transcendental pastimes in Nilacala. Sri Narahari Thakura and Sri Raghunandana Thakura both welcomed this proposal and advised Srinivasa go to Puri along with the other devotees of Bengal who would be visiting there shortly.

Srinivasa then returned to Yajigrama and requested his mother's permission to visit Nilacala. Although she was reluctant to let him go, she eventually gave her consent. Thus a few days later he met the other devotees of Bengal and started for Puri. Arriving in Nilacala he stayed the night in the house of a priest near the Simhadvara. In the morning he went to the house of Sri Gadadhara Pandita. Crying incessantly, Srinivasa fell prostrate at his lotus feet. Sri Gadadhara picked him up and embraced him, but Srinivasa could not stop crying.

After spending some time with Sri Gadadhara, Srinivasa proceeded to meet Sri Ramananda Raya, Sri Sarvabhauma Pandita, Vakresvara Pandita, Paramananda Puri, Sikhi Mahiti, Govinda Sankara, Gopinatha Acarya and other associates of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Upon meeting Srinivasa all the Vaisnavas were filled with happiness, understanding that Srinivasa was empowered by Sri Gauranga and would eventually take an active role in distributing books and spreading the message of the Lord. Thus the devotees were very kind to Srinivasa and offered him invaluable advice. Srinivasa stayed in Puri for some time, visiting all the places of the Sri Gaurasundara's pastimes. Thereafter he sought permission from the devotees to return to Bengal. Thus the devotees embraced him and bade farewell.

While returning to Bengal, Srinivasa received the news of Sri Gadadhara Pandita's disappearance from this world, and he fell unconscious on the ground. That night Gadadhara Pandita appeared before Srinivasa in his dream and pacified him. Srinivasa then regained enough strength to continue his journey. However, shortly thereafter, he again received word that Sri Advaita Acarya and Sri Nityananda Prabhu had also departed from the world. Srinivasa was overwhelmed with grief and cried incessantly, but Sri Nityananda and Sri Advaita also consoled him in a dream. At last Srinivasa reached Bengal. He first visited Sri Narahari Sarkara and Sri Raghunandana Thakura at Srikhanda, who wholeheartedly gave him their blessings.

He then traveled on to Navadvipa Mayapura, where he visited the birthplace of Sri Gaurasundara and rolled on the ground in ecstatic pleasure. At that time Sri Vamsivadana Thakura was living

in the house of Mahaprabhu and upon seeing him, Srinivasa fell humbly at his feet, weeping loudly and calling out the holy name of Mahaprabhu. Sri Vamsivadana Thakura was also overcome with joy upon meeting him. Srinivasa then begged to meet Sri Visnupriya Thakurani. At that time no one was allowed to meet her, but when Sri Vamsivadana Thakura mentioned Srinivasa's name to her, she thought for a moment and then agreed to see him. When Srinivasa was brought before her, he fell prostrate on the ground with tearful eyes. Sri Visnupriya blessed him and requested that he take prasada there that day.

In Navadvipa, Srinivasa met Sri Murari Gupta, Srivasa Pandita, Damodara Pandita, Sanjaya, Sri Vijoy, Suklambara brahmacari, Dasa Gadadhara and others. He then went to the house of Sri Advaita Acarya, in hopes of meeting Sri Sita Thakurani. She immediately called him to her room and blessed him heartily. He also met the other devotees of Santipura. From there he went to Khardaha, where Sri Paramesvari dasa Thakura was staying in the house of Sri Nityananda Prabhu. He happily introduced Srinivasa to Sri Vasudha, Sri Jahnava and Sri Viracandra. When Srinivasa lay at their feet crying, Sri Jahnava placed the dust of her feet on his head, and the others greeted him affectionately. After spending a few days in Khardaha, Jahnava mata advised him to proceed towards Vrndavana. Srinivasa then traveled on to the house of Sri Abhirama Thakura in Khanakula. When he worshiped Sri Abhirama, he touched Srinivasa's body three times with his "Jaya mangala" whip, although Malini devi, Abhirama's wife, tried to prevent him from doing so. When the whip touched Srinivasa's body, he felt his body become surcharged with divine love. Srinivasa then started for Srikhanda, where Sri Narahari Sarkara and Sri Raghunandana Thakura happily greeted him. Thereafter he went to Yajigrama where he visited his mother and offered worship to her. He then sought her permission to visit Vrndavana and she gladly gave her sanction.

On his way to Vrndavana, he saw the lotus feet of Lord Visnu at Gayadhama at the place where Mahaprabhu received initiation from Isvara Puri. From Gayadhama, he went to the house of Sri Candrasekhar in Kasi and met the other devotees. There he joyfully listened to Sri Candrasekhar and Sri Tapana Misra recount the wonderful pastimes of the Lord in Kasi. After spending a few days in Kasi, Srinivasa traveled on to Mathura where he bathed at Visrama ghata (the place where Sri Krsna took rest after killing Kamsa). In Mathura he visited the birth place of Sri Krsna and then started for Vrndavana. On his way to Vrndavana some brahmanas from the area told Srinivasa the heart-breaking news that Sri Rupa, Sanatana and Raghunatha Bhatta Gosvami had departed from the world. The brahmanas tried to console the grief-stricken Srinivasa and in the afternoon of the full moon day in the month of Vaisaka they took him to meet Sri Jiva Gosvami.

Srinivasa happily worshiped the lotus feet of Sri Jiva Gosvami, who embraced Srinivasa with great pleasure. They eagerly

sat down and discussed numerous topics together and Sri Jiva enquired about the devotees from Bengal. After some time Sri Krsna Pandita, the priest of Sri Govinda Deva, brought prasada and Sri Jiva and Srinivasa relished prasada together.

The following morning, Sri Jiva Gosvami and Srinivasa went to visit Sri Radharamana, where Srinivasa was introduced to Sri Gopala Bhatta Gosvami. Srinivasa worshiped the lotus feet of Gopala Bhatta and humbly prayed for his spiritual guidance. Gopala Bhatta happily agreed and the following morning, Srinivasa received spiritual initiation from him. The next day Sri Jiva sent Srinivasa to meet Raghunatha dasa Gosvami at Sri Radhakunda. With great pleasure Srinivasa worshiped the sacred feet of Sri Raghunatha dasa Gosvami, Sri Krsna dasa Kaviraja and Sri Raghava Pandita. Srinivasa remained in their association for three days relishing the nectar of their invaluable instructions. Thereafter, with their kind permission, he returned to Sri Jiva in Vrndavana.

Sri Jiva Gosvami then began instructing Srinivasa on Srimad Bhagavatam and the Gosvami's books. To Sri Jiva's delight, Srinivasa was able to imbibe all these teachings within a very short time. Thus Sri Jiva did not hesitate to confer upon him the title of Acarya. From that day he became famous as Srinivasa Acarya amongst the Vaisnava community of Bengal.

Srinivasa Acarya had previously heard the glories of Sri Narottama dasa and was anxious to meet him. Eventually Narottama arrived in Vrndavana and immediately upon meeting each other, they became great friends. Sri Jiva advised Srinivasa and Narottama to visit all the forests of Mathura and Vrndavana along with Sri Raghava Gosvami, a brahmana from the South and intimate associate of Sri Gaurasundara. Kavi Karnapura wrote that Raghava Pandita was Sri Campakalata (the life of Sri Radha) in Krsna lila. Sri Narahari Cakravarti has given a beautiful description of their travels in the fifth chapter of Bhaktiratnakara.

After completing their travels to all the forests, Srinivasa and Narottama returned to Sri Jiva Gosvami's place in Vrndavana. Around that time Sri Krsna dasa (Syamananda prabhu) reached Vrndavana from Bengal. Krsna dasa was a favorite disciple of Sri Hrdai Caitanya prabhu, and he himself had sent Krsna dasa to receive instructions from Sri Jiva Gosvami. The devotees sat together and listened as Krsna dasa conveyed the good news of the devotees of Bengal and Orissa to Sri Jiva.

Krsna dasa, Srinivasa and Narottama became very intimate friends and studied happily together under Sri Jiva Gosvami. Because these three devotees were extremely dedicated, well-versed in the scripture, and completely renounced they were chosen by the Gosvami's of Vrndavana to distribute the books of the Gosvami's in Bengal, a task which was eagerly accepted by these three exalted

souls. In this way Sri Jiva's long cherished desire to distribute the Gosvami's books was eventually fulfilled. Srinivasa was appointed the chief of this journey and their departure date was fixed on any day of the bright fort-night in the month of Agrahayana (Nov.-Dec).

After seeking the permission of the Gosvamis, and worshipping Sri Govinda, Sri Gopinatha and Sri Madana mohana, Sri Jiva Gosvami sent Srinivasa, Narottama and Krsna dasa to Bengal with the books written by the Gosvamis. A few armed guards were deputed to protect the vehicle which carried the precious books. As the caravan moved on from Mathura to Bengal, many travellers followed along behind the carts. At various places special arrangements were made to shelter the traveling party, and they happily engaged in sankirtana and worshipped the Lord wherever they stopped. Eventually the party arrived at the outskirts of Vana Visnupura, which was ruled by a bandit leader named Vira Hamvira. When the king was informed that a caravan was passing through Vana Visnupura on its way to Bengal, carrying a cart filled with a valuable treasure, he at once decided to attack the travelers and steal their treasure.

As the caravan plied on, unaware of the evil desires of the king, dusk approached and they stopped near a lake for the night. In the evening the three exalted Vaisnavas began ecstatic kirtana and the people of the nearby village watched in amazement, astonished by their graceful dancing and beautiful singing.

Meanwhile, happily anticipating his grand victory, Vira Hamvira remained alert, anxiously waiting for the devotees to retire for the night. Eventually the Vaisnavas accepted prasada and then lay down around the cart to rest. When they were sound asleep, the dacoits stealthily approached. With great care they snatched the chest full of books and rushed to the inner apartment of the king's palace. The king's astrologer had informed him that the chest was filled with the most priceless treasure, thus he greedily gazed at the chest with delight. Praising the robbers for a job well done, he offered them beautiful cloths and valuable gifts.

Early in the morning the Vaisnavas awoke and were shocked to find the cart empty. Their grief was unbearable. Rushing in all directions they frantically tried to find some trace of the books, but their search was to no avail. They were mad with despair, but after considerable time passed they managed to console themselves thinking that Sri Govinda Deva would surely help them to recover the books.

Meanwhile, the king opened the chest and found the books covered with valuable cloths. When he saw Sri Rupa Gosvami's pearl like handwriting on the books, Hamvira was suddenly freed from all

past sins, his heart became purified and swelled with loving sentiments. That night he had a wonderful dream; a beautiful man smilingly told him not to worry, the owner of the books would soon arrive and Hamvira should become his servant.

Srinivasa decided to send Narottama to Kheturi and Sri Krsna dasa to Amvika, while he himself stayed in Visnupura to recover the lost books. At that time a brahmana pandita from Visnupura, Sri Krsnavallava, happened to see Srinivasa. Being charmed by his appearance, Sri Krsnavallava invited Srinivasa to his house, where he was welcomed and worshipped respectfully. Krsnavallava, along with several others attentively received spiritual guidance from Srinivasa, and shortly thereafter many of them accepted initiation from him.

When Srinivasa happened to learn that the king was accustomed to listening to Bhagavata readings daily at his court, he wanted to go to the king's palace to read the Bhagavatam. Thus Krsnavallava took Srinivasa to the palace. When Vira Hamvira saw the effulgent countenance of Srinivasa, he fell prostrate on the floor and offered him scented flowers and garlands. Srinivasa then began reciting from the Bhagavata in a sweet and melodious voice. Hearing his excellent pronunciation and succinct explanation, everyone present, including the King, was charmed and their hearts overflowed with loving sentiments.

After completing his Bhagavata reading, Srinivasa began chanting and dancing in sankirtana. The King humbly worshipped the holy feet of Srinivasa Acarya and repeatedly prayed for his mercy. Sri Acarya embraced the King and assured him that Sri Gaurasundara would bestow His mercy upon him. Finally the king brought forth the trunk full of missing books and falling on the ground, offered himself, as well as the books, at the lotus feet of Sri Acarya. Overwhelmed with happiness, Srinivasa showed his kindness to the king and immediately sent news to Sri Jiva Gosvami in Vrndavana that the books had been recovered.

Shortly thereafter Srinivasa took the books and went to yajigrama, where he narrated the whole story of their journey to the devotees. At that time Srinivasa received a message from Navadvipa informing him of the demise of Sri Visnupriya Thakurani. Grief-stricken, Srinivasa fell to the ground unconscious. When the devotees eventually managed to pacify Sri Acarya, another message suddenly arrived from Sri Raghunandana Thakura inviting Srinivasa to Srikhanda. Without delay, Srinivasa immediately rushed to Srikhanda. Upon seeing him, Sri Narahari Thakura, Sri Raghunandana Thakura and the other devotees were filled with joy. Srinivasa worshipped the lotus feet of all the associates of Mahaprabhu and told them the news of the Gosvamis in Vrndavana.

At that time, Narahari Sarkara Thakura requested Srinivasa to marry, as it was the desire his mother. Srinivasa followed the

order of his mother without objection. After staying for sometime in Srikhanda, he went to Kantaka nagara to visit Sri Gadadhara dasa Thakura, who welcomed him warmly with great affection. Srinivasa spent a few days with Gadadhara, who happily listened to the news of the Gosvamis in Vrndavana. Srinivasa then left for Yajigrama, but before his departure, Gadadhara Thakura offered his blessings and valuable advice.

As soon as Srinivasa arrived in Yajigrama, Sri Raghunandana began making arrangements for his marriage to Draupadi, the beautiful daughter of a devout brahmana living in Yajigrama. On the Akshya Tritiya day in the month of Vaisaka (April-May), the marriage took place and afterwards Draupadi was renamed Isvari. Some time later Gopala Cakravarti, as well as his two sons-Syamadasa and Ramacandra, took initiation from Sri Acarya. Sri Narahari Sarkara was very happy when he heard the news of Srinivasa's marriage.

Thereafter Srinivasa Acarya began teaching from the Gosvamis books to his disciples in Yajigrama. Dvija Haridasa's sons, Sridasa and Sri Gokulananda, took initiation from Acarya and studied under him intently. Day by day Srinivasa's popularity grew and many people came to Yajigrama to receive his mercy.

One day while Srinivasa was engaged in devotional discussions with his devotees at his house in Yajigrama, Sri Ramacandra Kaviraja, son of Sri Ciranjiva Sen, passed by along with his newly wed bride. When Srinivasa Acarya and Sri Ramacandra Kaviraja saw each other from a distance, feelings of love suddenly arose in both of their hearts and they immediately desired to meet one another. The following day Ramacandra Kaviraja went to the house of Srinivasa and they meet each other with great delight. After a few days Srinivasa initiated him in the Radha-Krsna mantra.

Some time later Srinivasa, along with a few devotees, again left Yajigrama for Vrndavana. Along the way he visited Sri Visnupada padma in Gaya and then Kasi. There he joyfully met Sri Candrasekhar and the other devotees. After spending two-three days in Kasi, he traveled on to Mathura, where he visited the temple of Adi Kesava after taking bath at Visrama Ghat. He then eagerly rushed to Vrndavana and met Sri Jiva Gosvami, who was eagerly waiting for him. Sri Syamananda Prabhu also arrived in Vrndavana from Puri and Sri Jiva embraced both of them happily. However, they were both stricken with grief upon hearing of the demise of Dvija Haridasa.

Srinivasa and Syamananda stayed in Vrndavana and studied the Sat-sandarbha under the expert guidance of Sri Jiva Gosvami. During that time, Sri Jiva began writing Sri Gopala Campu, and he read the mangalacarana slokas to Srinivasa and Syamananda. After some time Sri Ramacandra arrived in Vrndavana hoping to bring Srinivasa back to Gauda, as requested by the residents of Gauda.

Srinivasa Acarya introduced Sri Ramacandra Kaviraja to Sri Jiva Gosvami, and Ramacandra fell at his lotus feet. Sri Jiva embraced Ramacandra affectionately and advised him to take darsana of Sri Radharamana, Sri Govinda, Sri Gopinatha and the Gosvamis of Vrndavana. Thus Srinivasa and Syamananda happily took him to various sacred places of Vraja. Eventually they arrived at the bhajan kutir of Sri Raghunatha dasa Gosvami and Sri Krsna dasa Kaviraja at Radha kunda. The Gosvamis were very pleased to observe Ramacandra's humility and devotion.

Later, as directed by Sri Jiva Gosvami, Srinivasa Acarya and Sri Syamananda Prabhu traveled to Vana Visnupura on their way to Bengal. When king Vira Hamvira saw Srinivasa, he danced in ecstacy and after worshiping his lotus feet, immediately fed Srinivasa many varieties of foodstuff. Thus a grand festival ensued in the king's palace. Sri Syamananda Prabhu was charmed by the king's display of devotion. Srinivasa then initiated the king into the sacred Radha Krsna mantra and gave him the name Sri Caitanya dasa. The king's son, Dhadi Hamvira, also accepted initiation and was named Sri Gopala dasa. Thereafter, through Vira Hamvira, Acarya Prabhu installed the Deity Sri Kalacand and personally performed the abhisekha and puja.

After spending a few days in Vana Visnupura, Sri Syamananda Prabhu proceeded towards Puri. Srinivasa also began preparations to leave for Yajigrama, but at that time the king of Sikharesvara, Sri Harinarayana deva, invited him to his house. Thus Sri Acarya and his associates spent some days with the king, where he gave wonderful discourses from the Bhagavata. In this way many persons there received the mercy of Srinivasa Acarya.

From Sikharesvara he traveled to Srikhanda. There, in the month of Agrahayana (Nov-Dec), on the 11th day of the dark fortnight, Srinivasa received the heartbreaking news of Sri Narahari Sarkara Thakura's demise. Srinivasa fell on the ground unconscious and cried in lamentation. Sri Raghunandana Thakura was also shocked by the departure of Sri Narahari Thakura, but was relieved to some extent when he met Srinivasa. After spending a few days at Srikhanda, Sri Acarya went to Kantaka nagara and was informed of the death of Sri Gadadhara dasa Thakura in the month of Kartika (Oct-Nov), which was a shock difficult for Srinivasa to bear. After sometime Srinivasa managed to calm himself and traveled on to Yajigrama, where he invited the devotees to his house for a grand festival in honor of Sri Gadadhara. Then on the 11th day of the dark fortnight in the month of Magh (Jan-Feb), he started for Kancana Gaida to observe the death ceremony of Sri Dvija Haridasa, which was celebrated with great pomp. On that festival day, Sridasa and Sri Gokulananda, the sons of Dvija Haridasa, received initiation from Sri Acarya Prabhu. After a few days, Srinivasa proceeded towards Kheturi to participate in the grand festival arranged by Narottama Thakura on the Purnima day of Falguna (Feb-

March). This festival was arranged by Sri Santosa Datta, the nephew and disciple of Sri Narottama. Sri Jahnava mata herself attended this wonderful festival. At that time the six Deities; Sri Gauranga, Sri Vallavikanta, Sri Vrajamohana, Sri Krsna, Sri Radhakanta and Sri Radharamana, were installed.

After the festival, Srinivasa and Syamananda Prabhu went to Yajigram where another wonderful festival began in the house of Acarya Prabhu. A few days later Sri Narottama Thakura also joined them. After some time, Sri Syamananda Prabhu left for Orissa and Srinivasa Acarya, Sri Narottama and Sri Ramacandra Kaviraja proceeded to Navadvipa. There they visited the house of Sri Gauranga, where they introduced themselves to the aged Sri Isana Thakura and worshipped his lotus feet. Isana Thakura embraced them warmly with great pleasure. At that time Isana Thakura was the only resident in the house of Sri Gauranga Mahaprabhu. The following day the devotees arranged to tour the sacred places of Navadvipa with Isana Thakura as their guide. They spent the entire day listening intently to the sweet pastimes of Sri Gurasundara as told to them by Isana. After completing the tour they worshipped Isana Thakura, tearfully bade him farewell and returned to Srikhanda.

Shortly thereafter they received the news of Isana Thakura's departure from this world, thus the devotees lamented loudly. In this way all the associates of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu in Navadvipa breathed their last one by one.

One day Sri Raghunandana Thakura sent a devotee to Yajigram to bring Sri Acarya. At once, Srinivasa rushed to Srikhanda and worshipped the lotus feet of Sri Raghunandana Thakura, who in turn blessed Sri Acarya and wished him a long life for the purpose of spreading the message of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. With these words he came before the Deities and offered his son Kanai to the lotus feet of Sri Madana Gopala and Sri Gauranga Deva. The three following days were spent entirely immersed in sankirtana. At the end of the third day, Sri Raghunandana Thakura fixed his eyes on the Deities and breathed his last. Kanai Thakura, Srinivasa Acarya and the other devotees could not endure the pain of separation and fell unconscious on the ground. Eventually Kanai Thakura managed to organize a grand festival in honor of his father and sent Vaisnavas all around the country to invite everyone to the celebration.

On the festival day, the Vaisnavas assembled and began sankirtana in the courtyard in front of Raghunandana Thakura's samadhi. The festival was so ecstatic that it seemed as if Raghunandana himself had appeared to join in their sankirtana. Srinivasa supervised the various activities of the festival and at the end of the festival he, along with the other devotees, took leave and went to Vana Visnupura to visit Vira Hamvira. There Srinivasa, surrounded by many devotees, read from the Bhagavata and

engaged in sankirtana in the king's palace. At that time the king took pleasure in serving the devotees and from that day Vana Visnupura became rightfully known as Visnupura. Taking advantage of the situation, many persons took shelter of the lotus feet of Srinivasa Acarya.

At that time one great devotee brahmana named Sri Raghava Cakravarti lived in Gopalapura. He had a daughter named Sri Gaurangapriya, but unfortunately he had not been able to arrange for her marriage. One night he dreamed that he was giving his daughter's hand to Srinivasa Acarya. Raghava explained the dream to his wife the following morning and they were both filled with happiness. The brahmana then went to meet Srinivasa. After worshiping his lotus feet, the brahmana stood humbly before Sri Acarya. Srinivasa could understand his intention and smilingly asked the reason why he had come. The brahmana then revealed his mind, as Sri Acarya listened smilingly. The devotees were all very happy to hear his proposal and at last Sri Acarya Prabhu agreed.

Vira Hamvira made arrangements to celebrate the marriage ceremony of Srinivasa with great pomp. Thus Sri Raghava Cakravarti happily presented his daughter with ornaments and nice dresses to Sri Acarya Prabhu. Thereafter Srinivasa returned to Yajigrama with his newly wed wife. At that time Sri Jahnava mata also arrived at Yajigrama on her way from Vrndavana, and came to the house of Srinivasa. Seeing the beautiful and devoted wife of Srinivasa, Jahnava happily took the bride on her lap. She showed great affection to both the two wives of Srinivasa, then informed Srinivasa of the well-being of the Gosvamis of Vrndavana. After spending a few happy days in the house of Sri Acarya, she returned to Khardaha.

Srinivasa Acarya and his disciples lived happily in Yajigrama studying and giving lectures on the Gosvami Grantha. Everyone who heard him speak was enchanted by his divine appearance and wealth of spiritual knowledge. Even the most notorious immoral persons could not avoid his influence and came before him seeking his mercy.

Srinivasa, Sri Narottama and Sri Ramacandra were inseparable friends. Srinivasa had three sons and three daughters. The daughters were-Krsnapriya, Hemalata and Phulapi Thakurani. The three sons were-Vrndavana Vallava, Radhakrsna and Sri Gatigovinda.

Sri Gatigovinda's son was Krsnaprasad Thakura and his son was Jagadananda Thakura. Sri Jagadananda Thakura had two wives. From his first wife he had one son-Yadavendra Thakura and from his second wife he had five sons-Radhamohana Thakura, Bhuvana mohana Thakura, Gaura mohana Thakura, Syama mohana Thakura and Madana mohana Thakura. The descendants of Bhuvana mohana Thakura are still living in the village of Manikyahara in the district of Mursidabad.

